

# THE Library Journal



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE  
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# THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

## SUBJECT-INDEXES TO TRANSACTIONS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.\*

BY RICHARD GARNETT, SUPT. OF THE READING-ROOM, BRITISH MUSEUM.

WE all remember the excellent paper read at the Oxford Conference by Mr. J. B. Bailey, sub-librarian at the Radcliffe Library, upon the advantage of a subject-index to scientific periodicals. Mr. Bailey spoke with just praise of the splendid alphabetical catalogue issued by the Royal Society, but observed that from the nature of the case this is "nearly useless in making a bibliography of any given subject, unless one is familiar with the names of all the authors who have written thereon." This is manifestly the case. As an illustration both of the value and the deficiencies of the Royal Society's index, I may mention that while on the one hand it has enabled me to discover that my father, chiefly celebrated as a philologist, has written a paper on the curious and perplexing subject of the formation of ice at the bottoms of rivers, the existence of which was wholly unknown to his family: it does not on the other hand assist me to ascertain, without a most tedious search, what other writers may have investigated the subject, or consequently how far his observations are in accordance with theirs. Multiply my little embarrassment by several hundred thousand, and you will have some idea of the amount of ignorance which the classified index suggested by Mr. Bailey would enlighten. We may well believe that the only objection he has heard alleged is the magnitude of the undertaking, and must

sympathise with his conviction that, granting this, it still ought not to be put aside merely because it is difficult. I hope to point out, however, that so far as concerns the scientific papers to which alone Mr. Bailey's proposal relates, the difficulty has been over-estimated; that the literary compilation need encounter no serious obstacle, and that the foundation might be laid in a short time by a single competent workman, such as Mr. Bailey himself. Of an index to literary papers I shall speak subsequently; and there, I must acknowledge, the difficulties are much more formidable. But as regards scientific papers it appears to me that the only considerable impediment is the financial. When the others are overcome, then, and not till then, we shall be in a favorable position for overcoming this also.

The reason why the formation of a classified index to scientific papers is comparatively easy is that the ground-work has been already provided by the alphabetical index of the Royal Society. We have the titles of all scientific papers from 1800 to 1865 before us, and shall soon have them to 1873. Though it might be interesting, it is not essential to go further back. We have now to consider how best to distribute this alphabetical series into a number of subject-indexes. To take the first step we merely require a little money (the first condition of success in most undertakings), and some leisure on the part of a gentle-

\* Read at the March monthly meeting of the L. A. U. K.

man competent to distinguish the grand primary divisions of scientific research from each other, and avoid the errors which cataloguers have been known to commit in classing the star fish with constellations, and confusing Plato the philosopher with Plato a volcano in the moon. I need not say that very many of our body would bring far more than this necessary minimum of scientific knowledge to the task. I may instance Mr. Bailey himself. The money would be required to procure two copies of the alphabetical index (which, however, the Royal Society would very likely present), and to pay an assistant for cutting these two copies up into strips, each strip containing a single entry of a scientific paper, and pasting the same upon cardboard. It would be necessary to have two copies of the alphabetical catalogue, as this is printed on both sides of the paper; and as the name of the writer is not repeated at the head of each of his contributions, and would therefore have to be written on the card, close supervision would be required, or else a very intelligent workman. When this was done, the entire catalogue would exist upon cards, in a movable form instead of an immovable. The work of the arranger or arrangers would now begin. All that he or they would have to do would be to write somewhere upon the card, say in the left hand upper corner, the name of the broad scientific division, such as astronomy, meteorology, geology, to which the printed title pasted upon the card appertained, and to put each into a box appropriated to its special subject, preserving the alphabetical order of each division. We should then have the classed index already in the rough, at a very small relative expenditure of time, money, and labor. For the purposes of science, however, a more minute subdivision would be necessary.

Here the functions of our council would come into play, and it would have a great

opportunity of demonstrating its usefulness as an organizing body by inducing, whether by negotiation with individuals or with scientific corporations like the Royal Society, competent men of science to undertake the task of classifying the papers relating to their own special studies. Men of science, we may be certain, are fully aware of the importance of the undertaking, which is indeed designed for their special benefit; and although they are a hard-worked race, I do not question that a sufficient number of volunteers would be forthcoming. When one looks, for example, at the immense labor of costly and unremunerated research undertaken by a man like the late Mr. Carrington, one cannot doubt that men will be found to undertake the humbler but scarcely less useful and infinitely less onerous task of making the discoveries of the Carringtons generally available. I am sure, for instance, that such men as Mr. Knobel and Mr. Carruthers would most readily undertake the classification of the astronomical and the botanical departments respectively, provided that their other engagements allowed, as to which, of course, I cannot affirm anything. Supposing our scientific editors found, they would proceed exactly in the same manner as the editor who had already accomplished the classification in the rough. Each would take the cards belonging to his own section, and would write opposite to the general subject-title written by the first classifier the heading of the minor sub-section to which he thought it ought to be referred; thus opposite *Botany*—*Lichen*, and so on. He would then put the title into the box or drawer belonging to its sub-section, and when the work was complete we should have the whole catalogue in a classified form, digested under a number of sub-headings. Some preliminary concert among the scientific editors would no doubt be necessary, and a final revision

in conformity with settled rules. It might be questioned, for example, whether a dissertation on camphor properly belonged to botany, chemistry, or *materia medica*; whether the subject of the gymnotus was ichthyological, anatomical, or electrical; whether in such dubious cases a paper should be entered more than once.

It would save time and trouble if these points could be determined before the classification in the rough was commenced; in any case considerable delay from unavoidable causes must be anticipated. It is to be remembered on the other hand that the work could, under no circumstances, be completed until the publication of the Royal Society's alphabetical index of papers from 1865 to 1873 was finished, which I suppose will not be the case for two or three years. There will, therefore, be sufficient time to meet unforeseen causes of delay. If the classified index could be ready shortly after the alphabetical; if we could show the world that the work was not merely talked about as desirable, but actually done in so far as depended upon ourselves and the representatives of science; that it already existed in the shape of a card catalogue, and needed nothing but money to be made accessible to everybody—then we should be in a very different position from that which we occupy at present. I cannot think that so much good work would be allowed to be lost. The catalogue, not being confined to papers in the English language, would be equally useful in every country where science is cultivated, and would find support all over the civilized world. Either from the Government, or from learned societies, or the Universities, or the enterprise of publishers, or the interest of individual subscribers, or private munificence, means would, sooner or later, be forthcoming to bring the work out, and thus erect a most substantial monument to the utility of our Association.

It would obviously be important to provide that scientific papers should be indexed not only for the past but for the future. If, as I trust, the Royal Society intends to continue the publication of its alphabetical index from time to time, the compilers of the classified index will continue to enjoy the same facilities as at present. There must be some very effectual machinery at the Society for registering new scientific papers as they are published. What it is we may hope to learn from our colleague, its eminent librarian, who must be the most competent of all authorities on the subject.

Mr. Bailey draws attention to several scientific periodicals as useful for bibliographical purposes, and I may mention one which seems to be very complete.\* It is published at Rome. The number for last December, which I have just seen, is so complete that among a very great number of scientific papers from all quarters, it records those on the telephone and the electric light in the *Companion to the British Almanac*, which I think had then been only announced here, not published, omitting the other contributions as non-scientific. It further gives a complete index to the contents of the *Revista Cientifica*, a Barcelona periodical which had apparently just reached the editor, from its commencement in the preceding April. By this list I learn that the electric pen, the subject of our colleague Mr. Frost's recent paper, had been the theme of a communication to a Barcelona society in May last. It certainly seems as if any library that took this periodical in, and transcribed the entries in its bibliographical section on cards properly classed, would be able to keep up a pretty fair subject-index to scientific papers for the future.

\* *Bullettino di bibliografia e di storia delle scienze matematiche e fisiche*. pubbl. da B. Boncompagni. Rome, 1868, etc.



I must in conclusion say a few words on a subject-index to the transactions of literary societies. The prospect is here much more remote, from the want of the almost indispensable ground-work of a general alphabetical index. We have seen what an infinity of trouble in collecting, in cataloguing, and in transcribing will be saved by the Royal Society's list in the case of scientific papers, and are in a position to appreciate the impediments which must arise from the want of one in this instance. The work could be done by the British Museum if it had a proportionate addition to its staff, or by a continuance of the disinterested efforts which are now devoted to the continuation of Mr. Poole's index to periodicals. Failing there, the most practical suggestion appears to me Mr. Bailey's, that the undertaking might be to a considerable extent promoted by the respective societies themselves. If the secretaries of the more important of these bodies would cause the titles of the papers occurring in their transactions to be transcribed upon cards, and deposited with this Association, we should accumulate a mass of material worth working upon, and which might be

arranged while awaiting a favorable opportunity for publication. In some instances even more might be done. The library of the Royal Asiatic Society, for example, contains not merely its own transactions, but those of every important society devoted to Oriental studies, as well as all similar periodicals. Our friend Mr. Vaux could probably, in process of time, not only procure transcripts of the papers contained in these collections, but could induce competent Orientalists to prepare a scheme of classification; and such a classified list, complete in itself and of no unwieldy magnitude, could be published as a sample and forerunner of the rest. The initiative in such proposals, as well as those referring to scientific papers, should be taken by our Association, which can negotiate with eminent men and learned bodies upon equal terms, and speak with effect where the voice of an individual would be lost. The desideratum of a classed index, in a word, affords our society a great opportunity of distinguishing itself. It is this aspect of the matter, no less than the importance of the matter itself, that has encouraged me to bring it under your notice.

#### ON THE USE OF THE PRINTING PRESS IN LIBRARIES.

BY J. VERNON WHITAKER,\* EDITOR LONDON "BOOKSELLER," WITH AMERICAN NOTE  
BY THEO. L. DE VINNE.

THE use of the printing press in libraries must be considered not only with regard to its advantages, but also with regard to the attainment of similar ends by other means. As libraries are differently constituted, the extent to which the printing press might be employed must also differ in accordance with the demands of individual cases. In libraries of the first rank, such as the British Museum, sufficient work might no doubt be found for a regularly appointed printing office, with a staff of pressmen and compositors.

On the other hand, there are many small public and proprietary libraries, where even a miniature press and an amateur printer would be in excess of the requirements. Avoiding these extremes, I have endeavored to consider the subject as it applies to libraries of moderate extent. My estimate of the quantity of type and materials that would be required is capable of readjustment, but a library whose requirements needed a less total, should hardly venture upon the experiment of doing its own printing.

\* Read at the March monthly meeting of the L. A. U. K.

The uses to which the printing press may be applied are: 1, the printing of the library catalogue, whether a card catalogue or one consisting of slips mounted in a book; 2, the printing of lists of additions, to be issued at short intervals; 3, the printing of notices to members, circulars, prospectuses, and the like. These I take to be the chief purposes for which the press would be useful.

The advantages which it has to offer are, primarily, that which all printed matter has over manuscript, and the great rapidity with which copies may be multiplied after once the type is set. Where card catalogues are used, the advantage of having several catalogues accessible to readers must be very great, and a limited reserve of cards ready printed might always be on hand to repair damages.

The issue of a monthly or weekly list of additions to the library, and the occasional issue of lists of books on subjects of current interest, is always desirable. It is not only of very great assistance to readers, but to the librarian may be the means of saving much time in answering questions. As several hundred copies of such lists would be required, they must necessarily be printed either in the library or elsewhere.

With regard to circulars and notices of various kinds, it is obvious that they require to be printed, and, even if the number is small, only twenty, for instance, the time occupied in writing the twenty would be greater than that required to set the type and print them.

Although the productions of the amateur printer could not be expected to equal those of Clay or Whittingham, very little practice would make him sufficiently dexterous in type-setting and printing for library purposes.

After careful inquiry, I find that a printing press which would be equal to the demands I have enumerated, with its

necessary equipment of type and other articles, costs about £15.

The cheapest and most convenient press for the purpose is probably Ullmer's Royal Octavo Albion Press, with a platen measuring 10 inches by 7. This, with ink table and roller, parchments, blanket and stand, costs £8. The quantity of type necessary would be a 12-lb. font of brevier with caps, italics, and numerals; 3 lbs. of brevier Clarendon; 16 lbs. of long primer, also with caps, italics, and numerals; and 4 lbs. of long primer Clarendon, which, with a supply of leads, brass rules, quoins, and furniture, would amount to £3. 9s. od. A frame, cases, two chases, composing stick, galley, and other miscellaneous articles would cost about £3. 6s. od., bringing the total cost to the sum just mentioned. Ink of fairly good quality costs 2s. per pound, but this item and also that of paper I have not included in the estimate.

To illustrate the work of which a press thus equipped would be capable, I have had some samples printed, in which the type and other materials used are strictly within the limits of my estimate. The skeleton monthly list will also show the maximum size of the sheet which may be printed on the machine.

A floor space of about eight feet square would be sufficient for the machine and frame, with room enough for a man to work.

At the outset of my inquiries I was of opinion the press might be economically employed, but I must confess that I have since abandoned that idea. Although arrangements might doubtless be made by which an entire printing outfit suitable for libraries could be supplied at a uniform price lower than my estimate, £15, I do not think a very great reduction would be possible. Most likely the tendency would be the other way, as it would probably be found that other varieties of type and more materials would be required.

Printing is a very dirty occupation, and printing ink sticks with remarkable tenacity to everything it touches. Type wears out quickly when used by inexperienced amateurs, letters are lost and broken, and the expense of renewal is frequent. It is seldom necessary to have more than one or two sets of slips or cards for a library catalogue, and to use the press for this purpose, unless the librarian himself or a fully competent assistant sets the type direct from the title-pages without copy, it would save time and expense to write the slips, instead of writing one for the purpose of afterwards printing two. For periodical lists, and for notices and circulars, no doubt the press would be economical and convenient, but if the lists were at all extensive, the quantity of type I have mentioned would not be sufficient. The monthly list of new books contained in the *Bookseller* seldom extends to less than ten pages. The type used is nonpareil, and the ten royal octavo pages require 100 pounds of type to fill them. The list of additions to a library of very moderate size, if issued quarterly, would probably overtax the capacity of a font of 16 lbs. of brevier. An annual catalogue would be out of the question.

It does not appear, therefore, that the printing press could be used in libraries having due regard to economy. The electric pen shown at our last meeting costs less than half the price of a printing outfit, requires less practice to work, and, for library purposes, is capable of almost equally satisfactory results. The papyrograph and the varieties of manifold writers are cheap and simple, and do not get out of order,—merits which almost, if not quite, balance their shortcomings in other respects. Experiment is better than induction, but, until the experiment is tried, it does not seem expedient to concede to the printing press a niche in library economy.

## ESTIMATE.

<i>Press.</i>	
Royal Octavo Albion Press,	£6 10 0
Pair Parchments, 3s.; blankets, 2s.,	5 0
Ink Table and Roller, 15s.; Wood	
Stand for Press, 10s. 6d.,	1 5 6
<i>Type.</i>	
Brevier, with Italics, Caps and Numer-	
als, 12 lbs. at 1s. 9d.,	1 1 0
Do. Clarendon, at 2s. 2d.; 3 lbs.,	6 6
Long Primer, with Italics, Caps, and	
Numerals, 16lbs. at 1s. 6d.,	1 4 0
Do. Clarendon, 4 lbs. at 2s.	8 0
Leads, 5 lbs., 2s. 6d.; brass rules, 3s.;	
quoins, 1s.; furniture, 3s.,	9 6
<i>Implements.</i>	
Demy octavo chase, 2s. 8d.; card	
chase, 1s. 6d.,	4 2
Mallet, shooter, planer and bodkin,	3 6
Composing stick, 4s. 6d.; galley, 2s.	
6d.; shears, 4s. 6d.; ley brush,	
2s. 6d.	14 0
Ullmer's double cases, 3 at 4s. 6d.; 1	
Imperial double, at 6s.,	19 6
Frame with rack and drawer, 4 ft. 6 in.	
by 2 ft. 6 in.,	1 5 0
	£14 15 8

[AT our request, Mr. Theo. L. De Vinne, an American authority on printing, adds the following note with American estimate.—EDS.]

My estimate, annexed, largely exceeds Mr. Whitaker's. American materials are somewhat higher in price, but I have allowed for more of them. I do not see that fonts of 12 and 16 pounds can be of any real use. Considering that copy for catalogues makes irregular drafts on capitals, italics, small capitals, figures, points, etc., to say nothing of accents, I am not at all certain that 50 pounds are enough. This supply will rarely be large enough for more than three octavo pages, and it may happen that one or more of the characters of a 50-pound font will be exhausted before one page has been fully composed.

I have doubts of the durability and efficiency of a press at \$56. I put it down as the only press that seems to be a worthy rival of a "royal octavo Albion" press at £6 10s. No reputable press-builder in



this country makes a machine large enough for a  $9 \times 12$  form for less than \$100. A more common price for a treadle press of about this size is \$225, and printers of experience prefer to pay the higher sum for a press entirely trustworthy.

Mr. Whitaker's opinion that amateur printing in libraries is not necessarily economical is probably the result of experience. Why should the question have to be demonstrated by experiment? Must one go over this bridge to prove to himself that it is not economical to make one's own coat or boots? Is it a fair deduction that the inexperienced man may not be, cannot be, a tailor or a shoe-maker, but that he may be a printer? It seems so, for Mr. W. thinks that "very little practice would make" an amateur "sufficiently dexterous in type-setting and printing for library purposes." Who needs faultless printing more than a librarian? Who should try harder to keep up the standard of thorough workmanship?

Reading and writing may come by nature, but does printing?

## ESTIMATE.

Text Type: Brevier, Roman, 35 lbs. at .48	\$16 80
" " " Italic, 15 " "	7 20
" " Long primer, Roman, 35 lbs. at .42,	14 70
" " Long primer, Italic, 15 lbs. at .42,	6 30
Display Type: Brevier Clarendon, 72 A, 140 a,	7 20
" " Long primer, Clarendon, 72 A, 140 a,	9 20
Leads, 10 lbs. at .25,	2 50
Brass Rule, cut to order,	2 00
Furniture and 1 doz. Patent Quoins,	3 00
Composing Stick, 8 inch,	80
4 Wood Galleys, $7 \times 16$ , at .50,	2 00
Mallet, Planer, Brush, etc.,	1 50
1 Double Stand, with rack and board,	8 00
2 pair Cases, upper and lower, \$1.60,	3 20
4 Job Cases, .90,	3 60
Small Marble Slab, for table or stone,	2 00
1 Amateur Press, self-inking, working by treadle, printing type form $9 \times 12$ ,	56 00
	<hr/> \$146 00

## ARRANGEMENT ON THE SHELVES.—FIRST PAPER.

BY MELVIL DEWEY.

THIS is the first important question to be decided after getting books and shelves. Some arrangement is an absolute necessity to finding the book, for we are speaking of something more than the family case in which books are often replaced on the principle that any vacant spot large enough is good enough. There are four methods in use and many more have been used by fanciful people. The four are: in order of accession, subject, author's name and size.

Arrangement by publishers would be worthless in a library, and it is an open question whether book-sellers—the only class that use this arrangement—would not do much better to arrange by subjects.

A fanciful private owner might arrange by binding-material or color or by cost. Some wise ones might arrange in the order of the merits of the books! I need not mention more of these fanciful distinctions.

An alphabetical arrangement by titles deserves a word, since it is the only method, beside the author arrangement, of finding books on the shelves without an index. The reader is supposed to know author and title so that he can go directly to the shelves and find the alphabetical place in either system. In fact, the title is seldom remembered so accurately. Some unimportant word at the beginning throws the book into another

part of the alphabet. If the principal word is chosen, the reader is at a loss, half the time, to know which that principal word is. The ordinary rule of taking the first word, except the articles, will be found the best of the two and that of little value in arranging on the shelves. Subjects, authors, sizes, dates, are hopelessly confused, and the title arrangement proves to be as worthless as one by bindings or merits. If leading or subject words are chosen, it becomes simply a poor subject arrangement, and the great number of books put under the same word would involve sub-hopeless confusions innumerable. Lettering the right title word on the back would help the matter a little, but not much. The title arrangement, therefore, has no right in the list of methods.

In the same way the chronological system, or by date of publication, may be dismissed at once. In science and some other departments there may be a slight advantage in having books arranged in the order of their original publication, tho the true date of first publication is often hard to find, and many books bear no date. No one would defend the plan for a public library, since it costs as much labor and has none of the great advantages of the others. In special cases date may modify the regular arrangement, e. g., in serials where one begins where the other ends. It would be awkward if the second series were shelved just ahead of the first. Such things are in the nature of consecutive volumes and can be so treated. They occur too seldom to modify our dismissal of a general date arrangement on shelves as impracticable.

#### IN ORDER OF SIZE.

Of the four systems in actual use the size arrangement has a practical side that will probably modify any plan adopted. Many private book-owners arrange an entire book-case by size regardless of other distinctions. Across the

room the effect is regular and pleasing, but is hateful to one who knows at what sacrifice the pretty gradation was secured. It costs the same labor that it would for either author or subject plans, for in either there must be constant intercalation. If applied to the whole library, the greatest possible economy of space can be secured, and this is its one redeeming feature. The pretty look of the shelves deserves little attention, tho many "committees" are easily pleased by it.

No one would adopt the size arrangement for a whole library except as a modifier of the regular system, and then the economy in shelving is overrated. No saving results from regular gradations unless there is an entire shelf of the smaller size. As shelves are not made zigzag, like the tops of the books, each must be high enough for the highest book that goes on it, and, in most systems, it constantly happens that less than half the shelf is filled with the small books.

Admitting that all library shelves are movable, very few are *moved* until there is great pressure for room, the labor of adjusting the simplest shelves being too great. Many public libraries have few books larger than octavo, and could disregard all size distinctions with positive advantage, putting a dummy of cardboard or wood in place of any book too large to go in its proper place. On this the location would be marked. For many libraries, this is all the modification desirable for size. A miscellaneous collection, however, with folios, newspapers, atlases, etc., must provide some plan of size modification of the regular system—enough to avoid extravagance in shelf space, and, perhaps, to avoid too ragged an appearance on the shelves. Still, some of the largest libraries have preferred to put all the books in one series, regardless of size. To put a Little Classic and the *Evening Post* on the same shelf seems absurd. But they don't come together in

any probable arrangement, and the *Evening post* will go with the other bound newspapers, all of which require large shelves. A few classes include nearly all the large books, papers, atlases, fine art collections, etc. Practically, the extremes are much nearer together than would at first be supposed, but it is still too great a waste of space to shelve a tiny 32° with a 4°, and this may sometimes happen. My decision at Amherst was that a distinction for every 10 cm. (4 in.) was ample, and it worked to our entire satisfaction. Every library must choose for itself how closely it will distinguish sizes on the shelves. On the one hand is the regular appearance and some economy of space; on the other is the extra labor involved, and, most important, the fact that size distinction breaks up subjects into just so many different groups. With three sizes, the books on geology must be looked for in three different places, to be sure of having found them all.

After much study of this question of size modifications, my present plan would be to use the new size symbols, Q. O. D. S. T., etc., which had not been devised when the Amherst scheme was printed. Some mark must separate class from book numbers, usually a period. The size of the book is to be given somewhere, usually with the imprint entries. Put the size letter in place of the period, thus saving that entirely, for the letter separates the two numbers perfectly, e. g., 512 D 5 is the 5th algebra of the D size. As the book numbers commence with unity for each different size letter, it is really no loss to prefix this, for as many books can be numbered with the same number of symbols, counting the size letter as part of the book number. The size letter answers its regular catalog purpose just as well here as among the imprints. We thus make it do double duty. Then on the shelves arrange the books strictly by the size letters. In the shelf

catalog it will, with this new plan, be practicable to mix the entries of different sizes on one sheet. In our present plan, a separate sheet is taken for each size of each class. If letters are used, the books may be entered and numbered all on one sheet. In checking off, the attendant who reads the shelf list will call off first all the D size, then all the O, etc., and, as the numbers are arranged in columns, it will be no extra labor. Of course, if preferred, a separate sheet could be used for each size, as now, but the other plan answers every purpose, and is more convenient for subject catalog use. The book numbers would run something like this:

D 1  
D 2  
O 1  
S 1  
D 3  
O 2 &c.

This size letter, standing first in the extreme left column, catches the eye so quickly that a reader will call off all the D books as rapidly from this list as from any other.

Such a condensed shelf list has several advantages. It gives on one page, or in one series, and in order of acquirement, all the books on a given subject, regardless of the accident of size. Beside greater convenience of reference, it reduces materially the bulk of the shelf catalog; for very many, and, in a close classification, most, subjects have not books enough of all sizes to fill an entire sheet, and, allowing three sizes to each subject, the bulk of the catalog would be reduced two-thirds by this new plan. Two points are gained by not numbering consecutively thru all the sizes. Figures are saved by beginning each size with 1; and beside, the number of the last book tells how many of that size are included in the list. The same plan can be applied, but with more difficulty, to

the present Amherst size notation, where, instead of a letter, the first figure of each book number indicates the size. In either plan a saving is effected by omitting all size distinction for the most numerous size, e. g., everything unmarked is O, and all other sizes are marked. The above seems to me simplest and best for any desired size modification of the regular system.

There is one advantage in numbering consecutively instead of each size by itself as here recommended: it is that size may be regarded to any extent desired, or not at all, and that the degree of size distinction may be varied as often as desired without alteration of numbers or catalogs in any way. If the size of every book is given between the class and book numbers, no further marks are required. In shelving, the attendants may this year be instructed to keep each size by itself in order. Next year you may decide to mingle D. S. T. Tt and Fe all in one series, and the attendants have simply to arrange by the book number regardless of size. Still, if once marked with the size, I can see no advantage whatever in not so arranging, and should therefore give decided preference to the first numbering.

I have never seen this plan tried, but believe it would be much liked, and invite criticisms or suggestions.

#### IN ORDER OF ACCESSION.

The accession arrangement is the simplest possible. The first book is 1, the next 2, and so on indefinitely. It is the most natural, and is largely used in school and Sunday-school libraries. It is the easiest way to mark books, the easiest to find them from numberings, and it alone admits of permanent shelf lists or inventories. There is no intercalation. The numbers are made absolutely permanent, and a catalog printed to-day is just as

good next century. In fact, in the Philadelphia library, arranged in this way, with size modification, Mr. Smith uses still the old catalog made before our generation, and the numbers are unchanged. Mr. Shurtleff, of the Boston public library, the author of the decimal shelf system, wrote a book in which he advocated strongly that catalogs be made in this way because of this permanent feature. All references must of course be made thru an index, as no one could guess where to look for anything. Such a system sacrifices all else to simplicity and ease, regardless of satisfaction in working. These features make it of exceeding value as a modifier of a subject system, but, applied to the whole library, it soon becomes intolerable, for books on the same subject are scattered thruout the entire building without the semblance of order. For working purposes, it is much as if all the sentences in a book were printed on separate slips and thoruly shuffled. With a good index, which is an essential of this system, it would be possible to get together the chapter or paragraph on any subject, and so in the library one may find the various books on his subject. For anything but the smallest libraries it is detestable for working purposes when applied to the whole collection. Applied to a final arrangement under a close subject classification, it is cheapest and simplest, and perhaps the best.

Under subject arrangement I shall speak of it again. Anywhere else it would be used simply because it required no explanation and I give it no more space, as no sane librarian would sacrifice all else to its simplicity.

Of arrangement by authors and by subjects (as much better for first divisions as it is more common than any other), and of relative and absolute location, I shall summarize the advantages and disadvantages in another article.

## THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

APRIL, 1879.

*Communications for the JOURNAL, and all inquiries concerning it, should be addressed to MELVIL DEWEY, 30 Hawley Street, Boston. Also library catalogues, reports, regulations, sample blanks, and other library appliances. European matter may be forwarded to the care of H. R. TEDDER, Athenæum Club, Pall Mall, S. W., London.*

*Remittances and orders for subscriptions and advertisements should be addressed to THE LIBRARY JOURNAL, P. O. Box 4295, New York. Remittances should be made by draft on New York, P. O. order, or registered letter.*

*Exchanges and editors' copies should be addressed to THE LIBRARY JOURNAL, 13 to 15 Park Row, New York.*

*The JOURNAL addresses itself exclusively to library interests, admitting to its advertising as well as to its reading-matter columns only what concerns the librarian as librarian. It does not undertake to review books unless specially relating to library or bibliographical topics.*

*The Editors are not responsible for the views expressed in contributed articles or communications, nor always for the style of spelling, capitalization, etc., in signed articles.*

*Subscribers are entitled to advertise books wanted, or duplicates for sale and exchange, at the nominal rate of 10 cents per line (regular rate, 25 cents); also to advertise for situations or assistance to the extent of five lines free of charge.*

THE time for the Boston Conference approaches; the various committees are all at work, but the reports which we hoped to present in this JOURNAL are necessarily deferred till the next. Every indication promises a full attendance and a successful and enjoyable meeting. Among the readers will be Mr. C. F. Adams, Jr., and Mr. S. S. Green, on the always interesting subject of fiction in public libraries, and Mr. C. A. Cutter on classification. It is to be hoped that the English brethren will not fail to send the delegation so long ago promised, and we drop the hint to American librarians that they take time by the forelock in so arranging for the summer vacation, that they may not fail to be in Boston, June 30-July 2. The arrangements for the Manchester Conference of the United Kingdom Association are progressing favorably, and the Association committees are showing good work. We must note, however, with deprecation, the proposal to go back to inches in determining the sizes of books, when the world in general is just adopting an international system of measure.

MR. GARNETT's paper on Subject Indexes is of the deepest practical interest. He has not simply theorized as to what is desirable, but has discussed details, and shown how difficulties may be met. Every reader must recognize the feasibility of the plan, and have faith that the necessary funds will be forthcoming from some of the sources named to print the work when done. It is well worth doing, even if it remains in ms., and can be consulted only in London or by mail, but we cannot conceive that this age, so marked for liberal gifts to promote education and science, should allow the work to remain unprinted. We shall look with confidence to see the United Kingdom Association undertake the plan. We may add the suggestion that the future may be provided for still more satisfactorily. Just as Dr. Billings and Dr. Fletcher have been willing to permit the medical profession the world over to share in the benefits of the universal indexing in the medical field done by the National Medical Library, by utilizing the material for the monthly *Index Medicus*, why should not the Royal Society be willing to have its index machinery utilized to make such a periodical index as that recently started in Manchester, all that it should be? It is yet, of course, an open question how far this new class of periodicals will be justified as private self-supporting enterprises, but everything that can be done for them by the existing organizations certainly should be done. The novelty of these journals is such that the U. S. P. O. Department recently ruled that the *Index Medicus* was "not a periodical" in the postal sense of the term,—a ruling which has, however, been reversed.

THE question of how far it is profitable for libraries to be their own printers, is a practical one, and valuable light is thrown upon it by Mr. Whitaker, from the English side, and by Mr. De Vinne, from the American. It may be suggested that the former as a publisher, and the latter as a printer, naturally take a professional view of the case in believing that printing can best be done by printers. The Boston Public Library has for some time had its own bindery, and finds this profitable, and a printing-office has often been talked of. Mr. Cutter employs a private office for the work on his catalogue. But most libraries, though they can keep binders steadily busy, would have many gaps of time to fill up in employing printers, and it stands to reason that a librarian of any ability, or a capable assistant, cannot waste his own time, even occasionally, in setting type and working a press. If



the title-slip registry becomes a permanent institution, and its results are utilized in libraries, much of the cataloguing work is thus done co-operatively, and Mr. Cutter's bulletin plan supplies a second feature. The plan of each library's doing its own printing for itself is rather opposed to coöperative economy; and we imagine there are few in which the peculiar circumstances justify investment in a private printing-office. There may, however, be some, where the right kind of labor can be economically diverted now and then to this purpose, and to these the figures of our estimates will be valuable. In comparing these with the cost of outside printing, rent, labor, and such items must not be overlooked, especially where more room is already required for books and more assistance for their care.

It will be some time yet before the real worth of a good librarian is fully appreciated. It often seems as if the best librarians were least certain of their positions. Boards of government vote men in and out of positions for many other reasons than fitness, and often allow the best ability, thoroughly trained for the special work, to go away because some one else, very likely unable to do one-quarter the work, can be had for half the money. On the other hand, there are libraries where the executive has too little interest in his work to care what is doing outside the walls. He plods on in the old routine, a mere machine, yet his chance for a permanent position may be as good as those of active workers. It looks very much as if the action of the Iowa Agricultural College, elsewhere noted, was a case of library suicide of the first sort; we do not know, however, anything of Mr. Arthur's successor, or if a successor is to be appointed. On another page is a still more prominent illustration in the effort to make a political pension berth at the head of the Mass. State Library.

We hear almost with astonishment that the issue of the third and completing volume of the admirable catalogue of the Brooklyn Library is much delayed by the lack of the small guarantee of \$1500 necessary to insure its completion. This catalogue has been received throughout the library world with not only satisfaction, but gratitude, as accomplishing a work which is of value to every reader. The times, indeed, are deplorably dull, but it will be little to the credit of Brooklyn if, even under these circumstances, this amount of money is not speedily raised. We believe, indeed, that it is a very simple question of adequate effort, quite within the decision of the library's trustees.

## AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

### EXECUTIVE BOARD.

THE following letter was submitted to the Board by the secretary:

The Bibliothecal Museum is constantly growing and requires some place to properly display it, and some time to show and explain it and keep it in order. A constantly increasing number of persons come to my office with inquiries that should be answered by the Association, and our work is developing on our hands. By common consent the secretary's office has been called the office of the Association, but there has been no action of the Board authorizing this. The A. L. A. needs all its funds for other purposes. With the very extensive correspondence maintained, the bills for library postage, circulars, etc., amount to quite a sum, and there are conference and other necessary expenses from time to time. It seems to me impracticable at present to make an appropriation for offices. I have just doubled the capacity of our Boston office, which before was made of two offices connected together. This I have fitted up handsomely with proper cases made for displaying the library appliances which we have collected. I offer to the Board the free use of this office and fixtures for the year 1879, if they wish to declare it the general office of the A. L. A. In that case, I shall put the name of the Association in the Directory and on our signs, and shall print the letter-heads, "Office of the Association," instead of "Office of the Secretary."

In response to the above letter, the Executive Board passed unanimously the following:

*Resolved*, That the offer of the secretary to furnish general office accommodations for the Association, during the year 1879, without charge, be accepted, and that the offices of the Association be at 32 Hawley St., Boston, and under the direction of the Secretary, until otherwise voted.

By unanimous vote of the executive board, Frederick Jackson, late Superintendent of the Newton (Mass.) free library, has been elected treasurer of the A. L. A. in place of Chas. Evans, who resigned last fall when he went to Memphis to nurse the yellow-fever sufferers. The necessity of electing a new treasurer has brought about a change, which experience had proved necessary to successful and satisfactory working. Over nine-tenths of the members enclose their fees in letters to the secretary. All those who join for the first time also pay their fees in at the general offices in Boston. It had been found necessary to have the treasurer in name authorize the secretary to

receipt bills and to be treasurer in fact, except at the annual meeting, when both are present together. In the very large correspondence conducted by the secretary, there is constant opportunity to secure new members and to wake up the old ones, and membership fees are sure to be paid in connection with the correspondence. This necessity of union of the two offices is now met, as Mr. Jackson is treasurer of the Readers' and Writers' Economy Co., occupying offices in connection with the A. L. A., and is therefore to be found at the offices of the Association as regularly as is the secretary.

#### MEMBERSHIP, 1879.

ON page 13, attention was called to the fact that the fee of \$2.00 for 1879 was due at the beginning of the year. Most of the members responded promptly. To those who neglect to send the \$2.00 to the General Offices, bills will be sent after May 15th. Some have sent \$25.00 for life membership, and it is hoped that many others will do the same before the summer meeting. The A. L. A. is a permanent society, and by paying \$25.00 in advance, members really get 8 per cent. interest on the money, for it will be impossible, with the work before us, to make annual dues less than \$2.00. The present special need is more members and more life members. Let each one interested make an effort to get as many names as possible for each list, and at once. Circulars explaining the object and inviting coöperation will be furnished free on application to the Secretary, or will be sent with an invitation to join, to any address furnished. Periodicals, by the new by-law (JOUR. 3: 257) may become members without assessment, and each member should see that periodicals in his section are entered on our list. Personal invitation is never declined, for every editor is heartily in favor of our work. The influence of many editors among our members will be great, as their interest will thus be fostered, and we shall know to whom to send matter for publication. It is specially desirable to make the list now preparing for publication as full as possible, and to have as many life members as possible. Let every friend do his part, and we shall grow rapidly. After the first list is in print, the additions will be printed each month in the JOURNAL. Those who wish the honor of being in alphabetical place on the first list must be entered soon. Applications should be made to the secretary. Fees enclosed will be receipted for by the new treasurer, Mr. Jackson, whose office is with the secretary and Bibliothecal Museum, at the General Offices of the Association, 32 Hawley St., Boston.

#### A. L. A. CATALOG.

ON page 423-7 of v. 1 of the JOURNAL was an article on "The Coming Catalog." After a year of consideration, the Coöperation Committee reported (v. 3: 223) that the plan was feasible, and was to be undertaken. In repeated meetings of the Committee the details were agreed upon and reported (3: 330-1). The work is the most important yet undertaken through coöperation. It will remove the necessity of that greatest terror of librarians and finance committees of the smaller and poorer libraries, the printed catalog. In spite of everything that may be done, a printed catalog will cost much money, much time, and, after it is printed and subjected to the critics, much regret. No expense incurred by libraries is more unsatisfactory. It is a necessity to the best work; but that the labor should be repeated over and over again for each library, seems little less than a crime. This coöperative catalog has been looked forward to by the most thoughtful libraries of every country as a kind of library millennium. The plan has been carefully prepared. It can be carried out at once if a little more can be added to the guarantee fund, or a few more names to the subscription list. Wherever explained, the plan meets with the most cordial approval and indorsement. The comparatively few members who have really tried to get subscriptions have met with flattering success, and have sent in goodly lists. On page 13 an appeal was made for more active efforts. A few responded. On page 85 another note asked attention to the first. More responded, and have brought the list almost up to the point of commencing work. It is highly probable that it will be carried through this summer, but there is danger that the disposition on the part of those who wish this great help printed to wait for some one else to do their share in calling it to public attention and in getting names, will result in the plan being abandoned.

The secretary takes pleasure in reporting that this month has, more than any other, brought subscriptions to the Guarantee Fund. Those interested should now write it up in local papers, post lists for subscribers in the reading-rooms, and personally and enthusiastically call the attention of those likely to subscribe. A few hours' earnest effort from each friend will carry it through. If you have not time to get names just now, but are willing to do so later, send in your name as responsible for 5, 10, 20, 50 or 100 subscriptions, and get them at your leisure while the catalog is making. Or send in your name as willing to pay your part of the necessary loss up to as large an amount as you feel willing to give, rather than

have the plan fail. There is small chance that any of this Guarantee Fund will be called for, but it must be subscribed in order to enable the committee to go ahead, for they are unwilling both to give their labor and assume financial risks, however small.

Read again the notes referred to above, and send in your name at once for the largest number of subscriptions, and the largest amount of guarantee which you will stand, rather than have the coöperative catalog given up. Then bestir yourself to get others to assume their share of those you have agreed to place. The work will either be given up or commenced at an early day. This is the last appeal. If any one is willing to do more if necessary, let the fact be made known at once. The committee will gladly accept conditional subscriptions, so many copies, in case expenses cannot be paid without. On this plan each one will have to take only enough to guard against direct loss.

[A specimen of the letters received, and of which a few more are wanted by the Catalog Committee.]

NEW BEDFORD, 8 April, 1879.

Please add the Free Pub. Library to the list of subscribers for 20 copies of the A. L. A. Catalog.

The Library cannot subscribe to the guarantee fund, as our city appropriation barely covers current expenses, and there is some doubt as to our ability to use our trust funds for such a purpose; but you may hold me personally responsible for a subscription of ten dollars to the fund.

R. C. INGRAHAM, *Libn.*

MERCANTILE LIBRARY, San Francisco,

April 12, '79.

By the March JOURNAL I see that subscriptions to the A. L. A. Catalog want urging on. It was an oversight that I have not forwarded my subscription before this.

I was under the impression that I had given you to understand that you were to subscribe my name to *anything and everything* which the A. L. A. might promulgate. So nearly in this condition did I *feel*, that it hardly occurred to me to go through the formality of sending on my name. Still "business is business," and I only regret that I have allowed myself to be reckoned among the number who have tardily come up to the support of the worthy but neglected cause.

Please sign my name for a *personal* copy, and our library (M. L. A.) for five. Call upon me for my fair proportion of any deficiency which may exist to threaten a defeat of the enterprise. By no means allow it to fail.

ALFRED E. WHITAKER.

## UNITED KINGDOM ASSOCIATION.

### SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS.

THE resolution of March 7, that all sub-committees should be committees of the entire Association, and report on the third Friday of each month, came into operation on March 21.

For the General Catalogue of English Literature it was resolved: "(1) That an endeavour be made to obtain an estimate of the size and cost of the proposed catalogue; (2) That a specimen of the catalogue be prepared and that the Council be requested to sanction the expense of printing so much of the specimen as may seem desirable."

On the question of size-notation, Mr. B. R. Wheatley gave notice of a motion to the effect that in ordinary cataloguing a system should be used based upon the terms hitherto employed of folio, 4to, 8vo, etc., that approximate heights in inches be decided for each size, and that a card with these sizes be circulated by the L. A., requesting its members to adopt it in future.

For title-entries it was resolved to recommend that military, naval and legal prefixes should be used.

### APRIL MONTHLY MEETING.

THE sixth monthly meeting of the second year of the Association was held at 8 p. m. on April 4, at the London Institution, Mr. Rob. Harrison (Treas.), and subsequently Mr. W. H. Overall in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed as correctly entered, Lieut. H. Wyndham Carter was nominated, and Mr. Bigmore was elected, a member.

Besides gifts of pamphlets and library-reports, the attention of the meeting was particularly directed to the valuable donation of the second part of the American Catalogue, from the publisher, and of the interesting account of the libraries of California, by Mrs. Flora Haines Apponyi, presented by the author.

The chairman then called upon Mr. Jas. B. Bailey (Radcliffe Lib., Oxford) to read his paper on "A proposal to make the continuation of Poole's Index of use in library catalogues."

Mr. E. C. Thomas thought that the Association should have a periodical of its own, which might include such an undertaking as Mr. Bailey recommended. He considered much in Poole's Index unnecessary to the English librarian, as a large percentage of the periodicals indexed are not even to be found in this country.

Mr. G. Bullen was strongly of opinion that all editorial work should be paid for.

Mr. W: H: Overall recommended that the matter should be referred to a committee, and that the members of the Association be applied to in order to find out what help might be depended upon from them.

After some further discussion, in which Mr. Tedder pointed out the difficulties in the way of starting any periodical which might be thought to rival the LIBRARY JOURNAL, the following resolutions were passed: "(1) That the subject of Mr. Bailey's paper be referred to a committee, and that such committee be instructed to consider the question of a journal for the Association; (2) That a list of the books and library appliances belonging to the Association be prepared and presented to the members at the next annual meeting."

Mr. Cornelius Walford then read his paper "On the Longevity of Librarians."

Mr. G: Bullen and Mr. Overall handed in supplementary lists of long-lived librarians.

Mr. C: Welch mentioned the name of Mr. W: J. Thoms, deputy librarian of the House of Lords, and late editor of *Notes and Queries*, who would certainly go down to posterity as an eminent centenarian.

Mr. Henry Stevens remarked that many of the great book-collectors had been bachelors and long-lived men, and related a saying of old Dr. Robins, of Connecticut, to the effect that a librarian or bibliographer should never marry.

Mr. H: R: Tedder thought that as Mr. Walford's statistics gave a long life to the unmarried priest, and a short one to the ordinary librarian, this fact was another argument in favor of the celibacy of librarians.

Votes of thanks were unanimously passed to Messrs. Bailey and Walford for their interesting communications.

#### THE INDEX SOCIETY.

##### FEBRUARY COMMITTEE MEETING.

A MEETING of the Committee was held Tuesday, 11 Feb., at the Society of Arts, at 5.30 P. M.

Captain Huth's Catalogue of Books on Horses was submitted, and after discussion, it was resolved to print the work as one of the publications of the Society. Several other Indexes were reported as in progress.

The draft Report was then considered, and Messrs. Gomme and Fenton were appointed auditors of the accounts.

##### MARCH COMMITTEE MEETING.

At a meeting of the Committee, Tuesday, 11 Mar., a list of the Council, 1879-80, to be sub-

mitted to the General Meeting, was agreed upon as follows:

##### *President.*

The Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon, P. S. A.

##### *Vice-President.*

The Lord Lindsay, M. P.  
Robert Harrison.  
Sir Henry Thring, K. C. B.  
William J. Thoms, F. S. A.

##### *Treasurer.*

Edward Solly, F. R. S.

##### *Director and Secretary.*

Henry B. Wheatley, F. S. A.

Edward W. Ashbee, F. S. A.  
Walter De Gray Birch, M. R. S. L.  
Henry Campkin, F. S. A.  
William Chappell, F. S. A.  
Colonel Chester, L.L. D.  
G. Lawrence Gomme, F. S. A.  
R. E. Graves.  
Prof. W. Stanley Jevons, F. R. S.  
Alfred Kingston.  
Rev. W. D. Macray, F. S. A.  
Rev. Prof. Mayor.  
Prof. Newton, F. R. S.  
Edward Peacock, F. S. A.  
E. C. Rye, F. G. S.  
Rev. Prof. Skeat.  
Ernest C. Thomas.

A draft of the Rules also to be submitted to the General Meeting was read and agreed to as follows:

1. The Index Society has for its objects the preparation of Indexes to Standard Works and Special Subjects, and the accumulation of materials for a general Reference Index.
2. The Society shall consist of Members subscribing one guinea annually, payable in advance on the first of January of each year.
3. The names of those wishing to become Members shall be submitted to the Council for approval.
4. A Member of the Society may at any time compound for all future subscriptions by payment of fifteen guineas.
5. An Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held in London at such time and place as the Council shall from time to time appoint.
6. The affairs of the Society shall be conducted by a Council consisting of a President, four Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Director, and Secretary, and sixteen Ordinary Members. The Council shall have power to fill up occasional vacancies in their number.

7. At each Annual meeting all the Members of the Council shall retire from office, but not more than three-fourths shall be eligible for re-election.

8. The accounts of the receipts and expenditure of the Society shall be audited annually by two auditors appointed by the Council.

9. Every member (whose subscription shall not be in arrear) shall be entitled to a copy of each of the ordinary works published by the Society for the current year.

10. No alteration shall be made in these Rules except at an Annual Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called upon the requisition of at least five Members. One month's previous notice of the change to be proposed shall be given in writing to the Secretary, and the alteration proposed must be approved by at least three-fourths of the Members present at such Meeting.

It was resolved that extra copies of the Indexes to be included in the Appendix to the Report, and of the List of English Indexes should be printed. A sub-committee, consisting of Mr. Harrison and Mr. Wheatley, was appointed to arrange for the meeting to be held on Wednesday, 26th inst., at the Rooms of the Royal Asiatic Society.

#### FIRST ANNUAL MEETING.

The first annual meeting was held on Wednesday, Mar. 26, 1879, at the Rooms of the Royal Asiatic Society, 22 Albemarle st., at 5.30 p. m., and in spite of very inclement weather the attendance was considerable.

The Earl of Carnarvon, President, having taken the chair, the Secretary read the report of the committee (in part) and the balance sheet.

The President then moved the adoption of the report in an animated address, full of valuable suggestion.

He thought that in a literary point of view this was an important meeting. They had to make their way, but he was satisfied the object they had in view, when once understood by the public, would be quite sufficient to recommend its usefulness. The field of knowledge was a very large one. Like the Garden of Eden, the tree of knowledge of good and evil grew within its precincts. The fruits of the tree were many and various—some growing on the top, some on the boughs, some close to the ground, some very accessible, and some very difficult to obtain; and every student knew that it was not enough to have knowledge within sight, but it was necessary also that it should be within reach. It was important that the knowledge men possessed should be accessible, docketed, pigeon-holed—in fact ready for use. That he took to be the object which the

meeting had set before itself. He apprehended that every student had in his own way indexed the books he was studying, and this Society undertook to do that for the whole student-world which each student had to do for himself. Countless authorities might be cited as to the worth of a good index in enhancing that of a good book. He would only remind them of what Mr. Carlyle had said on the subject, and of Lord Macaulay's emphatic testimony at the early age of 15. They had an admirable example set in the legal profession both by Sir Henry Thring and Sir Fitzjames Stephen, who had pronounced in favor of indexing. He would himself cite, as a homely illustration of the subject, the predilection felt by so many scholars for the old Delphin edition of the classics, in spite of all its faults, on account of its copious indexes. Though a good deal had been done, he apprehended the deficiencies in indexing were simply enormous and that there had been only just enough done to beacon the road and show how much remained undone.

Many important works had indexes compiled on confessedly irregular principles, some upon a totally wrong principle, some where the index was broken up, some where it had been so carelessly completed that it was full of glaring absurdities, and some had no index at all. Bloomfield's "History of Norfolk," in 11 v., had no index, and some sixty years after the publication it was found necessary to publish one, and two guineas and a half had to be paid to complete the usefulness of a work otherwise of little value. Valuable as was the aid given at that magnificent institution, the British Museum, a student might often waste hours and even days in discovering what, if there were an accurate index, he would obtain in a few minutes. It was for the purpose of remedying and providing against such crying evils that this Society had been established. The movement had sprung out of a letter addressed to the *Athenaeum* by Mr. Harrison, of the London Library, which had been warmly responded to from across the Atlantic by Professor Justin Winsor, the librarian of Harvard.

The Society needed three things: Zealous workers, money and a local habitation. He believed that each one of these objects would tend to help the other, for the zealous workers would bring money, and money would ultimately give them a local habitation.

In conclusion Lord Carnarvon said: "Gentlemen, I have felt it both a pleasure and an honor to preside at this, your first meeting; and all the more so that our meeting should be held in the hall of the Asiatic Society—a society which has



done so much good service in the very highest departments of literature; and I may venture to hope that the young Society which we have this evening inaugurated—I may say planted like a young sapling—will spread and grow and flourish, and hereafter, like the banyan tree of the East, throw down new stems and put forth new branches, till it forms an entire grove, a very forest of leaves, flowers and fruit, under the shelter of which the literary men of all countries and of every occupation may meet and come together for mutual information and assistance."

Mr. R. Harrison seconded the motion, and drew especial attention to the proposed Index to the Biographical and Obituary Notices in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, which could not be undertaken without a sufficient guarantee fund being obtained.

It was proposed by Mr. Peacock and seconded by Mr. H. D. Ashbee—

"That the thanks of the meeting be given to the auditors of the Hon. Secretary's Cash Account."

It was proposed by Mr. Solly and seconded by Mr. Gomme—

"That the proposed Rules be adopted."

It was moved by the President—

"That the officers and Council for the ensuing year be elected."

It was proposed by the Rev. R. Harley and seconded by Mr. Knobel—

"That the thanks of the meeting be presented to Mr. Vaux and the Royal Asiatic Society for the privilege of meeting in these rooms."

It was proposed by Mr. Harrison and seconded by Mr. Chappell—

"That the thanks of the meeting be given to Mr. Henry Wheatley, in consideration of the work done by him for the Society as Hon. Secretary."

The foregoing resolutions were all carried unanimously.

It was proposed by Mr. Ashton Cross and seconded by Mr. Chappell—

"That this meeting desires to express its best thanks to the Earl of Carnarvon for presiding at this the first general meeting of the Society." Carried by acclamation.

The Chairman, in reply, closed the proceedings with the remark that he hoped ensuing generations would thank them for the work they had inaugurated this day.

The success of this first general meeting gives good hope for the permanent prosperity and continued usefulness of the Index Society, increasing with its years and membership.

#### THE ANNUAL REPORT.

THE annual report (of which the full title, etc., will be given in Bibliography when received) mentions the hearty manner in which the Society has been welcomed on all sides; urges the necessity of obtaining a large accession of new subscribers; regrets the delay in the issue of the books for 1878, which are to be: 1. What is an index, by Wheatley (see JOUR., 3: 269<sup>ab</sup>); 2. Index to the royalists whose estates were confiscated during the Commonwealth, by Miss Mabel Peacock; 3. Index of municipal offices, by G. L. Gomme; 4. perhaps Handbook to the literature of botany, by Daydon Jackson.

The preparation of the general index and the occupation of an office are still in abeyance for want of funds. The committee feel that science has been insufficiently represented in their program; but some astronomical indexes are hoped for, and an index of anthropology has been proposed. Biography, it is thought, will interest both scientific and literary men. A Biographia Britannica is still a desideratum and it will be well if the Society can aid in the work by the rearrangement and registration of materials. The Rev. Prof. Mayor has offered the Society a large number of slips containing biographical references, which, with a catalogue of the titles of separate memoirs and of the contents of certain well-known collections, will form a useful nucleus for an English biographical index. It is proposed to add references to funeral sermons, which often contain curious biographical matter not elsewhere to be found. On the index to the *Gentleman's Magazine*, see JOUR., 4: 54. An index to Oken's *Isis*, 1817-48, has been proposed, but it is not thought advisable to index foreign works yet.

Mr. A. Ramsay has proposed "A plan of systematized notes," as follows:

"The object of the plan is to analyze and systematize the contents of all books on some general principles. It may be urged that such a task is impossible in its entirety; this may be true. But if the systematized arrangement of the contents of any one book is of use, the application of the same idea to many books would be of far greater utility; and so far as it goes the work would have a definite completeness. The same remark would apply to a general index to a number of specified works. The plan under notice has been gradually developed, and has been practically applied to most of the natural history sciences. The formation of the plan necessarily involves a consideration as to which is the best method of classification. The method adopted is

to consider *things* as the primary objects to be classified. The properties, parts, and distribution of the things constitute the subordinate headings. These are arranged as uniformly as is practicable, so as to allow of the regrouping of the materials should it be considered preferable to make the properties and distributional areas the primary objects to be classified. Each great group of things is separately treated and arranged. In each group the arrangement of headings is mainly systematic, the alphabetical order only being resorted to for the purpose of facilitating reference. As a rule the order is from the general to the particular; and as each group is separate, the groups may be arranged so as to refer from the more simple to the more complex, or *vice versa*. In the latter case 'animals' would come first, being the highest kind of things. This is zoölogy, but it is made to embrace physiology, or the functions of animals, and all other 'ologies' which have animals for their subject matter. As this is a very extensive branch of knowledge, each class has its own systematic and alphabetical arrangement of data. As far as possible the same arrangement is adopted for each class, so as to facilitate the finding and comparison of statements. Man, however, is an exception, and is treated separately, while the subject matter is more minutely divided than in the classes. Plants, rocks, minerals, strata, climate, and physical geography have each their own special arrangements. Mathematics and the exact sciences are omitted, while physics and chemistry find a place only so far as they specially concern the different kind of things noticed under the subordinate headings of chemical and physical properties."

A number of indexes in preparation are mentioned,—of names incidentally mentioned in Burke's genealogical dictionaries; of persons engaged in the Civil War, 1639-60; of places where Roman remains have been found in Great Britain.

There have long been complaints from the few against the publication of books of fact without indexes, and this outcry is gradually growing louder. A distinguished member of this Society makes it a rule to refuse the purchase for his library of any book, however important, that is published without an index. "It has been suggested that the Committee should *gibbet in their Reports* all indexless books, but it will perhaps be better to adopt a reverse process, and to commend those books which are well indexed."

"The Committee trust that the list of American subscribers may be largely increased, and they invite suggestions as to the indexes that are likely to be most acceptable to such subscribers."

#### METROPOLITAN FREE LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION.

THE meeting to form the proposed Metropolitan Free Libraries Association, for promoting the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts in and around London, was held on Thursday afternoon, April 3, at the Royal School of Mines. The meeting was called by the Metropolitan Free Libraries Committee, who have been working with the same object for more than a year past, but who desired to merge themselves in a larger organization, which might serve as a bond of union for all friends of public libraries throughout the metropolis. Our official minutes of proceedings have not come to hand, and the following report is from the English papers: The Bishop of London took the chair, and made an excellent introductory speech. Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, M. P., moved, and Mr. Henry Richard, M. P., seconded, the formation of an association. Mr. Thomas Hughes, Q. C., Sir W. Frederick Pollock, and Dr. Gladstone, spoke in favor of the object of the meeting. Mr. George Howell opposed it on purely economic grounds, and was answered by Mr. Frederic Harrison. The motion was almost unanimously adopted. The Bishop of London is president of the new association, and a long list of well-known men form its council. Membership is obtained by a yearly subscription of not less than 5s. The honorary secretary, Mr. E. B. Nicholson, of the London Institution, Finsbury Circus, who has been the moving spirit of the work, will be glad to send full printed information to all friends of the movement.

#### THE ELECTRIC LIGHT AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM READING-ROOM.

[From the Chemical News, Mar. 7th, 1879.]

LAST Monday will henceforth be looked upon as an interesting point of departure in the history of the British Museum Library, for on that day its manifold treasures were, for the first time, thrown open by night as well as by day to those entitled to use them.

For the past three weeks Mr. Bond, the Principal Librarian, and M. Berly, C. E., the London representative of the Paris Société d'Electricité, assisted by their respective staffs, have been making repeated experiments on the practicability of lighting up the British Museum Reading-Room by means of the Jablochhoff system of electrical illumination. Having partially determined upon the number and position of the lamps to be used, Mr.

Bond decided that on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of the present week the Reading-Room should be kept open until seven o'clock, so that the holders of reading-tickets might have the opportunity of practically testing the value of the welcome innovation. On Monday evening, accordingly, about two hundred readers remained behind after the usual hour for closing, and when at a few minutes before six o'clock, the twelve Jablochhoff candles in shades of opal glass suddenly burst into light, those present forgot for the moment that they were in a building devoted to silence and study, and evinced their approval of the efforts of the Museum officials on their behalf by breaking into a burst of applause, a sound which we will venture to say has never before been heard beneath Sir Antonio Panizzi's famous dome.

Roughly speaking, the Reading-Room is a circle, nineteen-twentieths of which are devoted to the public, the remaining twentieth forming the passage into the Library. In the centre there are three circular desks, the inner one being used for the delivery and return of books, and the two others, which are breast high, for stacking and using the voluminous catalogues. From these run radially nineteen desks divided lengthways by a partition, and lettered from A to T both inclusive, but missing Q, seventeen of which are double, the two end ones being single. At present the first four, A, B, C, and D, are each illuminated by a Jablochhoff lamp, placed on a standard fifteen feet high, fixed exactly in the middle of each desk, being sustained by the longitudinal partition which separates the readers, the remaining fifteen desks being lighted by seven lamps placed alternately. The remaining lamp is placed in the centre of the room, and lights the desks of the Superintendent and his assistants. The general opinion amongst the readers appears to be one of unanimous approbation of this mode of lighting. We have thoroughly tested the matter in a practical manner by reading, writing, tracing, drawing, and painting at one of the first four desks as well as at those which are only lighted alternately. In the first case there is abundant light for comfortable working at any part of the four desks, but in the latter a reader sitting at either end of the illuminated desks has to twist himself round most uncomfortably to get out of his own shadow. We venture to think, therefore, that for the new mode of lighting to be thoroughly satisfactory to all, the whole of the nineteen desks must each be provided with a lamp, thus rendering the imitation of daylight as perfect as need be.

It is agreed on all hands that the light is mellow

and soft, and most agreeable to work by. Now and then, it is true, there is a sudden flutter in the light, and occasionally it waxes and wanes slightly, but these defects will no doubt disappear when everything is in full working order.

The source of electricity is a 20-light duplex Gramme machine of the latest construction, worked by a Robey portable engine of 16 horse-power nominal. There are four circuits of five lamps, but only sixteen are used at present; that is to say, twelve in the Reading-Room, one in the Entrance Hall, one under the portico, and two in the machine and engine-shed. The machine and its engine are placed outside in a wooden erection at the north-west corner of the Museum buildings, about 200 yards distant from the Reading-Room.

The four candles used in the lamps at desks M, O, R, and T are of an improved kind lately invented by one of M. Berly's assistants, and are now tried for the first time. They differ from the ordinary Jablochhoff candles in the insulating material between the carbons being replaced by a composition which we suppose must be a feeble conductor. Extinction, except for a moment, is therefore impossible. The use of the carbon bridge for lighting is consequently entirely obviated. Not only this, but one, two, three, or the whole of the four candles may be lighted or extinguished at will simply by turning the handle of the commutator, or if one goes out it relights itself automatically without extinguishing its neighbors.

It would, of course, be premature to speak of the cost of permanently carrying out this immense boon to students and literary men generally; we may, however, mention that a reduction has recently been made in the price of the ordinary ninety-minute candles of something like 40 per cent. That the innovation is already highly appreciated is shown by the large attendance of real workers on the three evenings in question, and by the almost unanimous chorus of approbation indulged in by readers of all classes. The Société d'Electricité deserves great credit for the public spirit they have shown in gratuitously supplying everything necessary for making this interesting experiment.

Mr. Bond and his able coadjutors seem determined to extend the use of the treasures under their charge in every possible direction, and it ought to be the duty as well as the pleasure of the literary, artistic, and scientific press of this country to strengthen their hands by generously commending and seconding their well-intentioned efforts.

## THE MASS. STATE LIBRARY BILL.

THE secretary of the board of education is nominally librarian. In fact, he appoints an assistant librarian, who is called state librarian by the public, and who is supposed to have the entire charge of the library, at \$2000 per year, with the assistance of two ladies at \$1000 per year each. Oliver Warner, for many years the secretary of state, was appointed to this position just before the present secretary of the board of education, Hon. J. W. Dickinson, went into office in May, 1877. It was a matter of common fame that the library was given as a sort of pension for long service rendered in the state department, and the management of the library has been faithful to this idea. In our conventions and in all our library work there has been nothing to indicate that the state of Mass. had a library. Investigation of the institution itself shows, as might be expected, a similar fossilized element. The work that an earnest, hard-working librarian must do was very largely neglected, and the librarianship was looked upon in the old-fashioned way, as a sinecure to be given to some of the "poor relations" of the state. We have nothing to say of the distinguished services of the former secretary of state. The very fact of his long service and great faithfulness in the state department implies that he had not and could not have made a special study of libraries. He was not, therefore, the man to be put at the head of the library of the state most famed thruout the world for its libraries and librarians.

Mr. Dickinson, the secretary of the board of education, is famous for his untiring industry and devotion to the public service. Extremes met, and it was not strange, when the attention of the board of education and its secretary was turned to the great importance of guiding and developing the library interests as the complement of the school system of the state, that they found it necessary to have in the state library as efficient a librarian as the salary would command. With this in view, the resignation of the incumbent was asked for, and, not being tendered, he was removed. Naturally, there was sympathy with an old public servant who had thus lost his pension, and, thru his earnest efforts, a bill was brought in to separate the library entirely from the educational department. The reason assigned was that the library was so important as to demand independence, etc., etc., and some probably supported the bill with this object. It was notorious, however, that the real object was to again open the place as a pension berth, regardless of any qualifications as a librarian. At this writing the bill

is on its passage, with results doubtful. We should be sorry to see it pass just at a time when Secretary Dickinson is trying with a single eye to secure the most efficient librarian that can be had. The schools and libraries belong together, and should be worked together. As a fact, too many of the state libraries are sadly behind the position they ought to occupy. Their first work, as a legislative library for the use and convenience of the state authorities, should of course be done first, but after that it is eminently fitting that the man at the head of the state library should make his influence felt in the libraries thruout the state. Such work Sec. Dickinson has now in hand, and we trust he may have opportunity to give it some of his earnest efforts. Should the bill pass, friends of library progress must unite in protesting to the appointing power against prostituting the state library to the rank of a reward of merit, to be given to some pensioner of state who has no other qualifications for the place. Give the pension, if it seems best, directly and as a pension, but spare the library.

MELVIL DEWEY.

## CATHEDRAL LIBRARIES.

THE Bishop of Truro, Dr. E. W. Benson, in his recent work ("The Cathedral: its necessary place in the life and work of the Church." London: J. Murray, 1878; see p. 136-7) has drawn attention to the importance of keeping up the cathedral libraries, and the following extract may on this account interest our readers:

"There is another point in which the coöperation of laymen in cathedrals is seriously wanted on many accounts. The library was in the old times a prominent feature of the cathedral. It ought to be so still. In most such libraries there are *strata*, as it were, of collections,—plenteous ore in one generation, from folios to broad-sheets, in the next generation '*tenuis argilla*.' When the chapter meant sixty people, and when those who had daily right and pressure to use the library, and had no other books to use, were two to three hundred, then it was at once a college library and a grand repository of archives. This it ought still to be. It ought to contain archives of every town, every marked family, and every corporation in the diocese, as well as to maintain at full efficiency a library of reference and a theological library. It was a singular instance of the good sense and far sight of Bishop Phillpotts, of Exeter, that, desiring and believing in the revival of the See of Cornwall, he gave all his theological collections to Truro on condition that a library should be built

to receive them and future gifts. It was not beneath the dignity of a Synod of Rheims to represent to the clergy what petty sums their cherished books fetched at sales after their deaths, and to beg that they would rather bequeath them to the cathedral libraries, where they would be prized."

#### BOOK AND READER ACCOUNTS.

THE following postal came Feb. 1, and dampened a little our ardor for double accounts: "We have been trying to keep a book-account with our reader account, but, with all the work of the library to be done by two persons, with a little help from the reading-room attendant, and a daily circulation of from 100 to 250 v., we find that we have not time for other things, and have abandoned it after nine days' trial. If we had another assistant we could easily do it, but we find that our subscribers have to wait longer than they ought while we are recording the books of those who have come before them."

Fearing the method was too laborious we wrote to know what it was. The answer proved our guess right. The call-slip had the title written out in addition to the number, which is all that is used in other libraries. The librarian said:

"We wrote the titles, because they were just what we wished to know. The number would send us to the shelf-lists. If a person comes in and says: 'How soon can I have the "Voyage of the Sunbeam"?' we wish to know just where it is, and a title catches the eye sooner than a number. Our subscribers leave a vacancy for a book which they wish to reserve, and they often ask if it is due to-morrow or not for several days. We kept our slips in a box and sorted them alphabetically before the library was open the next morning. Our readers call orally for books. The rule requiring written call-slips lost us many subscribers."

The trouble and delay of writing the titles, and still more the inconvenience of keeping in a box and sorting out alphabetically would, of course, ruin the plan. Besides, the date was written instead of stamp on the slip, and the reader's name written out when his number would have answered. These shortenings and one of the new check-boxes would have made the question very different. Titles cannot be arranged more than half as fast as simple numbers; and finally, short titles cannot be made, even slowly, so that references shall be perfectly definite. On the whole, we consider the above trial as nothing against the double account. Any plan can be tried under so unfavorable conditions that failure is inevitable.

MELVIL DEWEY.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY.

EDITED BY CHARLES A. CUTTER.

##### 1. NOTICES.

THE SCIENCE INDEX; a monthly guide to the contents of the scientific periodicals, by A. Hildebrandt, A. J. C. E. No. 1. Jan. 1879. Manchester. 64 p. 4".

This publication is not as ambitious as its title would seem to imply; instead of being an index to the whole of the scientific periodicals it only presents us with the contents of 41 publications, and these are chiefly technical newspapers. We should have preferred the title Mr. Hildebrandt gave to his first prospectus of this work,—“The Technological index,” as this would have more clearly pointed out the ground he intended to cover. Giving the scientific contents of such papers as *The Times*, *Standard*, and the Manchester papers is certainly a good feature in this publication, as much scientific information is buried in these out-of-the-way places. The reader is also told whether the reference he is looking at is a “Paper,” “Letter,” “Extract,” “Lecture,” or “Editorial article.” This is often of great use and saves the annoyance of turning out a reference and being rewarded by finding an abstract of about 3 lines. We would suggest to Mr. Hildebrandt that in future he should confine himself to “technological” papers; it is quite useless giving the references to the few papers he has done on “Natural history,” when the chief zoölogical periodicals have not been examined; if the editor were to take in more periodicals, and only index the papers relating to the branch of science he has undertaken, his work would be of much more value to the technological student.

The papers are classified under certain headings instead of being arranged as in “Poole”; and this is done in many instances in such a way as to make it very difficult to find the desired information; for instance, if you want a paper on “New Asiatic fishes,” you must look under “Food.” Papers on “Stained glass” are under “Architecture.” “Jerry building at Aston, Birmingham,” will be found under “Lawsuits;” and under “Philosophy” we find “Spectroscopic observations on the human body.” There are many entries, too, that might be dispensed with in the Index; for example, under the head “Societies” we find “British Association, Chemical paper by Molloy on nitric acid. *Engnr.*, 1202, 10, 31;” now, this paper is referred to under the heading “Chemistry,” and there certainly seems no necessity for this second entry; then again, under the same head, “Societies,” occurs “University, and educational intel-



ligence. *Natural Science*. Ntr., 480, 9, 234." If the editor spared himself many such entries as these he would materially decrease the bulk of his work without giving the least inconvenience to his readers. References are made to the no. of the periodical and not to the vol.; on the 4th page there is a list of periodicals indexed with a key to these numbers, so that the reference to *Nature* above, No. 480, is found by turning to this key, to be to v. 19. Surely it would have been better to have given us v. 19 in the first place. There is nothing much more troublesome than hunting up a series of references when you are not possessed of the no. of the vol. required.

All the faults of this publication may be remedied in future numbers, and we sincerely hope that Mr. Hildebrandt will persevere in his good work, and by his success encourage others to start similar publications for other branches of learning.

JAS. B. BAILEY.

## 2. RECORD OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

(The extracts made in this department are much condensed, and connecting words are often altered or inserted in order to piece the sentences together.)

### A. *Library economy, history, and reports.*

#### BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE.

The title in *LIB. JOURN.*, 3: 74<sup>15</sup> should end: 1877. [2] + 176 + [1] p. O.

BOSTON PUB. LIB. Catalogue of books in the East Boston Branch; [with descriptive notes]. 2d ed. Feb., 1879. Boston, 1879. 215 pp. O.

CHAMBERS, G. F. Digest of the law rel. to public libraries and museums, and literary and scientific institutions; with much practical information useful to managers, committees, and officers, of all classes of associations and clubs connected with literature, science and art, including precedents of by-laws and regulations, the statutes in full, and brief notes of leading cases. 2d ed. London, Stevens & Sons, 1879. 8 + 114 p. 8". 8s. 6d.

The above lengthy title gives a fair idea of the scope of a work which is quite indispensable to those interested in the public libraries question. The second edition has been much enlarged.

H. R. T.

CINCINNATI PUB. LIB. Bulletin of books added during 1878. Cin., 1879. [3] + 196 p. l. O.

Consists of 10 classified monthly bulletins, a subject-index and an index of authors, anonymous works, and collections. The additions, incl. duplicates, were over 10,000 v.

"It seems necessary to remind some medical students that the Public Library is not the place for the exercise of practical anatomy on books."

"Residents of Cincinnati may withdraw books by registering name and furnishing satisfactory security. In lieu of

other security, a deposit of \$3, or of the value of the work desired, may be made. *Non-residents* may withdraw books by making a deposit of \$3, and an annual payment (in advance) of \$5.

#### "Use of the Library.

"For the 4 years ending Dec. 31, 1873,	1,088,760
" " " " " 1877,	2,363,170
" " " " " 1878,	2,777,932

"The 4 years ending Dec. 31, 1873, were those immediately preceding the present administration, those ending Dec. 31, 1877, the first 4, and those ending Dec. 31, 1878, the last 4, of the present management.

"From the Report of the Pres. of the Board of Education, Aug. 31, 1878, 'The past year has witnessed no break in the remarkable progress which has accompanied the enlightened management of the present Librarian. The number of volumes in use during the year reached the surprising total of 761,669, an increase of more than 50,000 over last year. The increased demand for books is wholly outside the realm of fiction, and in the higher paths of literature. The additions have been 12,507 v. and pm., making a total of 100,621 v. and 11,229 pm.'"

The bulletins are classified. There are added indexes (1) of subjects; (2) of authors; (3) of anonymous works and collections. (2) and (3) refer to the pages of the bulletins and also give the book-numbers, so that they amount to an alphabetical catalog of the year's accessions.

FRIENDS' FREE LIB., *Germantown, Phila.* Report. n. p., F. E. Paige, 1879. 18 p. O.

Added 526 v.; total, 8710.

"In making purchases, while excluding Fiction, the Committee have aimed to act in as liberal a manner as would comport with the character of the library. The literature of the present day contains so much that calls for the exercise of judgment and discrimination on the part of the individual reader, that an attempt to relieve him of a due share of responsibility for what he reads, by excluding all works to which exception might be taken from one standpoint or another, might result only in crippling the usefulness of the institution."

HEINEMANN, O. v. Die Herzogl. Bibliothek zu Wolfenbüttel; ein Vortrag. Wolf, Zwissler, 1878. 48 p. 8". 1 m.

Published to revive an interest in the library, which the author thinks is not sufficiently valued by the people.

JAHN, Alb. Die Kunde u. Benutzung d. bongarsischen Handschriften- u. Büchersammlung d. Stadtbibliothek in Bern. Mit e. Beil.: Bemerkgn. üb. die berner Stadtbib. von A. W. Cramer. Bern, Wyss, 1878. 54 p. 8". 1.20 m.

In reply to some assertions of H. Hagen in his "Catalogus codd. Bernensium."

LANCASTER, *Mass.*, LIBRARY. 16th ann. report. Clinton, 1879. 46 p. + View. O.

Added, 822 v., 219 pm.; total, 11,391 v., 3,797 pm.; 34 periodicals taken; issues, 12,175 (Fiction, 62.3; History, etc., 14.5). In the table of the comparative use of authors in Fiction, Mary J. Holmes is first, Alcott 4th, Macdonald 7th, Black 9th, Dickens 20th, Oliphant 27th, Thackeray 33d, Howells 37th, Hardy 39th.

MARBLEHEAD, *Mass.* ABBOT PUB. LIB. Report. (Pages 37-39 of Ann. rep. of the town, Marblehead, 1879.)

Added, 959 v.; average cost, \$1.19; total, 4571, av. cost, \$1.07; issues, 39,737, with an average of less than 4000 v. to issue. (Fiction 77.1 per cent., Hist., Biog., Trav., 11.97.) Note the large turnover, which is the more remarkable because the borrowers are restricted to one v. every 6 days.

MERC. LIB. CO. OF PHIL. 56th ann. report. Phil., 1879. 32 p. O.

Added, 8167 v.; total, 136,358; issues, 186,834; members, 7349; newspapers rec'd, 397, periodicals, 171; cost of books, \$7259.14, of periods, \$1846.60, of binding, \$4225.80.

MORSE INSTITUTE LIBRARY, *Natick, Mass.* Supplementary catalogue, March 1. Natick, 1879. 37 p. O.

Added, 442 v.; total, 10,099; issued, 35,893 (Fict. and Juv. 76.66 per cent., Hist. and Biog., 6.37, Trav. 3.5, Sci. 3.05).

"Parents complain that a class of our books so excite their children as to withdraw their interest in and otherwise unfit them for their more important school duties."

NEVADA STATE LIB. Biennial report [for 1877-8]. San Francisco, 1879. 60 p. O.

Added, 2398 v.; total, 11,896 v. The list of additions contains some remarkable examples of cataloging; there is a separate list of books "donated"; perhaps a state library does not accept books that are merely "given."

QUINCY PUB. LIB. Catalogue supplement no. 1, incl. additions Sept. 1875-Dec. 31, 1878. Boston, 1879. 56 p. I. O.

REISSENBERGER, *Cust.* Ludw. Bericht üb. das Freiherr St. v. Brukenenthalische Museum in Hermannstadt. I. Die Bibliothek. Veröffentlicht im Auftrag d. Curatoriums. Hermannstadt, Michaelis, 1877. 32 p. 8°. 50 m.

SYDNEY FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY. Report for 1877.

"Having been in existence eight years, the Library now contains 32,753 v.; 5981 in the Lending Branch for circulation. The Reference Department was open for 305 days during 1877, and the number of visitors was 113,760. The Lending Branch (commenced only on July 3) was open only on 86 days, and the number of volumes read was 10,968. To give an idea of the solid character of the Library, it may be stated that out of the 32,753 volumes in the entire Library, there are only 1358 prose works of Fiction in the Reference Department, and none in the Lending Branch. The new catalogue of the Reference Department has now been completed in 1008 p., containing all the books up to the 31st December, 1876. It is a model of what such a catalogue should be."—*Trübner*.

Y. M. LIB. ASS. Report for the year ending March 1, 1879. *n. p., n. d.* 2 p. O.

Added, 441 v.; total, 3490; issues, 20,250 (Juv. and Fiction 50 per cent.). Supported mainly by the town, which gave \$892.18, whereas the receipts from fines, quarterly dues, etc., were only \$86.68.

*Design for the L. I. Hist. Soc. Building, Brooklyn, N. Y.* J. P. Putnam, architect, Boston. *Amer. architect*, Feb. 1. 2 pl.

Elevation and plans, incl. library hall, with galleries. This design was not the successful one, the award being to that of G. B. Post, N. Y.

*German slowness.*—*Literary world*, Mar. 29, 1½ col.

"The countrymen of Kant seem to be so firmly convinced of the truth of his doctrine that time is a mere form of the mind, and does not belong to things in themselves, that it is somewhat difficult to make them believe that anybody can attach any value to it."

"If while waiting for your book [to return from a leisurely binder] you try to get a copy at the Royal Library, you will find yourself baffled again. Books can never be procured on the same day on which you order them. If you put in the order slip at 9 o'clock to-day, you may call for the book at 11 to-morrow, and even then you are apt to be told to call again an hour later. Many important books are not to be had in the library at all, because it takes months, and, in some cases, years, to have them bound. In connection with the Royal Library there is a fine reading-room, which, however, is not open to students, but only to professors and literary men. It is remarkably well stocked with domestic and foreign periodicals of all sorts. But most of them are already a week or two old before they are made accessible. Even the leading German magazines, which appear about the 1st of each month, are seldom to be had before the 15th."

*A glance into the Sumner alcove, Harvard Library;* by Kate V. Smith.—*Scribner's mag.*, March. 4 p.

*The Library of Herculanum.*—*Builder*, Feb. 8. 4 col.

An account of the private library unearthed in 1752.

*Mr. Mullins and the Free Library.*—*Birmingham d. Mail*, Mar. 5. 1½ col.

Mr. Mullins has withdrawn his resignation, and the committee have recommended that he be reinstated. Owing to an informality, the matter was laid over till another meeting. "The appointment has been widely advertised as vacant, candidates have been invited to apply, a large number of gentlemen from all parts of the country have sent in their testimonials, and they have gone to this trouble and incurred this expense in the full belief that the vacancy would be filled up in open competition. One cannot doubt that if such a recommendation as was brought forward yesterday were adopted, it would be regarded as a hard measure by the candidates. This seemed to be the feeling of the Council. We fully appreciate the feeling which has prompted him to tender his services under unexpected and disastrous circumstances, and we are quite ready to admit that, in the formation of the new library, his aid, and particularly his knowledge of local literature, would be of considerable value; but the claims of the other candidates ought at least to receive the show of consideration."

*Our libraries and librarians.*—*N. Y. Times*, Feb. 9. 1 col.

"Probably no city in the civilized world entitled to rank in the first class is so poorly provided as New York with libraries for the general public. . . . We have no free public library at all to crown our system of popular education and afford the people an opportunity for mental cultivation, while

every agency calculated to debase and weaken the common mind is found here in full force. The result cannot fail to show itself in the character of the people.

"Our associations of learned and professional men have provided themselves with excellent collections of literature, adapted to their special wants. The Geographical and Historical Societies, the Bar Association and the Law Institute, have good libraries for the use of their members. The Cooper Union Reading-room very inadequately serves a useful purpose, and might be still more valuable if visitors were not indiscriminately treated as the suspicious objects of charitable favor, entitled to no rights and only the most grudging accommodation. The utility of the Astor Library, which contains a splendid collection of the most valuable books, is reduced to a minimum by regulations which make it impossible for any one to avail himself of its treasures unless he is at leisure during the busiest part of the day. Its management appears to be based on the theory that the purpose of a library is to keep books as safe as possible, and to prevent their use. The Mercantile Library is beyond doubt the most useful in the city, but its defects are so numerous and glaring that any one familiar with its working will yield it only the most reluctant commendation. . . .

"We are poor enough in libraries, but we have absolutely no librarians. A serious student, or even an intelligent reader, is generally intent upon informing himself on some subject rather than devouring the contents of a particular book. He wants to find what there is on the subject and what works are the best or will most satisfactorily meet his individual requirements. He is not a bibliographer, even in regard to the matter that for the time interests him. It is not his business to be so, and probably he has not time for it, but it should be the business of a librarian. Every library should have in charge of it, or at least in its employ, a man who is a scholar on the subject of books and literature. His knowledge and capacity in this direction should be as thorough as that of any professional man in his own special line, and it should be employed primarily, not in the classification and cataloguing of books as an end for its own sake, but in facilitating the investigations of readers. He should be able to place in their hands what they want, even though they cannot name the author or exact title, remembering that the purpose of a library is the maximum of profitable use and not the maximum of preservation. Such librarians there are, and this country possesses perhaps half a dozen, but not one of them is in this city, at least not in any library to which the public has access. A real librarian will know the wants of his library and supply them with judgment, so far as the means at his command will permit. He will know the wants of the public and strive to meet them. In none of the libraries of this city to which the casual reader may resort will he find any such officer. If he meet with decent courtesy he will be fortunate, for the chances are that his inquiries will be treated as impertinence, but material assistance in his researches he certainly will not find."

*Sulla spogliazione delle biblioteche napolitane nel 1718; da B. Capasso.—Archiv. stor. delle prov. napol., an. 3, fasc. 3.*

#### B. Catalogs of libraries.

FORCELLA, V. Catalogo dei manoscritti rel. alla storia di Roma che si conservano nella Biblioteca Vaticana. T. I. Torino, Bocca, 1879. 8°. L. 15.

Catalogue des livres orientaux, etc. comp. la bibliothèque de feu M. GARCIN DE TASSY, suivi du catalogue des mss. hindoustanis, persans, arabes, turcs, réd. par M. F. Deloncle, la vente 17 mars, 1879, etc. Paris, Ad. Labitte, 1879. 8+272 p.+port. O.

HERZOG. BIBLIOTHEK ZU GOTH. Die arabischen Hdschr. verzeichnet von Dr. W. Pertsch. 1. Bd. 2. Hft. Gotha, F. A. Perthes, 1879. 15+(241-492) p. 8°. 9 m. (1. Bd., 17 m.)

ITALY. CORPO DI STATO MAGGIORE. Catalogo delle opere e carte, dic. 1878. Roma, 1878. 190 p. 8°.

MORTARA, Cav. Marco. Catalogo dei mss. ebraici della Biblioteca della Comunità Israelitica di Mantova. Livorno, 1878. 72 p.

"Cavaliere Mortara is not merely a learned Rabbi, but has been the owner of very many Hebrew mss. himself. These it has been his practice to pass on, after he had digested them himself, to others; a practice by which the great libraries, and notably that of the University of Cambridge, have been greatly enriched during the last few years. The author's large acquaintance with Hebrew mss., coupled with his general learning, makes this short description doubly valuable. It came out last year in Leghorn on the occasion of the Fourth Congress of Orientalists, held at Florence. The mss. described in this catalogue deal mostly with translations from Greek philosophy, religious philosophy and *Qabbalah*, although they extend also to other provinces of Jewish literature." 84 mss. are described.

PREVOST, J. L. Catalogue des pub. périod. interess. les sciences médicales qui se trouvent à la Bibliothèque. Pub., la Soc. Méd., la Soc. de Lecture de Genève. Genève, Georg, 1879. 40 p. 8°. 1 fr.

SIDNEY, N. S. W., FREE PUB. LIB. Works on New South Wales.

"An excellent little work compiled under the direction of the indefatigable and energetic Principal Librarian, Mr. R. C. Walker. It contains the titles and full descriptions of between 500 and 600 works on the geography, climate, trade, agriculture, productions, inhabitants (and their character, pursuits, and languages), history, internal administration, finance, etc., of New South Wales, the oldest and richest of the Australian colonies."—*Trübner*.

SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM. Catalogue of the Library. Printed for the use of the trustees. London, Wyman and Sons. Not published. 1878. 414 p. 8°.

A prefatory note informs us that: "The following catalogue of the printed books and books of engravings and drawings . . . is far more complete than the existing printed catalogue, and it is believed to be fairly accurate. It was resolved to print a limited number of copies, chiefly for the use of the curator and of students using the library." The catalogue is alphabetical, under authors' names; the titles medium, with plenty of cross-references. The library is the ordinary collection of an architect, formed at the beginning of the century, and consists chiefly of forgotten books and obsolete editions. H: R: T.

MR. BYCHKOV has begun the publication of the Catalogue of the mss. in the Imperial Library at St. Petersburg. A notice of this important work occupies a prominent position in a late number of *Old and new Russia*. It has bibliographical and historical notes of great value.

A NEW catalogue of the Chicago Public Library is under way, including the valuable additions made to the library from books purchased at the recent sale of the Brinley Library.

According to the Chicago *InterOcean*, 14 March, 1879, "The catalogues at the Public Library have furnished no little cause for complaint during the last few years. Books have been classified according to their subjects and topics [the *InterOcean* unfortunately does not explain how subjects and topics differ]. The same kind of works have often been distributed in different cases, so that an applicant would hardly know where to look in the catalogue for the desired work. Sometimes the public and the librarian would have different ideas as to the exact department in which a certain book belonged, and it was the most difficult matter to find the name of the book in the catalogue. Hereafter all these misunderstandings and troubles will be obviated. A catalogue is being prepared similar to that in use at the Cincinnati library, merely giving the names of author and subject, irrespective of the department to which it belongs. The names of the authors will be alphabetically arranged."

#### c. Bibliography.

DRUJON, Fernand. Catalogue des ouvrages, écrits, et dessins de toute nature poursuivis, supprimés, ou condamnés, 21 oct. 1814-31 juil. 1877. Éd. nouv. consid. augm. suiv. de la table des noms d'auteurs et acc. de notes. Paris, Rouveyre, 1879. 37+430 p. 8°. 8 fr.  
"Mit ausserordentlicher Sorgfalt u. besonders hervorzuhebender Accuratesse ausgeführt."—*Petzholdt*.

GERMOND DE LAVIGNE, A. Les pamphlets de la fin de l'Empire, des Cent-jours et de la Restauration; catal. raisonné d'une col. de discours, mém., doc. pol., procès, biog., hist. secrètes, pièces de vers, comédies, chansons, etc., 1814-17. Paris, E. Dentu, 1879. 18°. 3.50 fr.

GORI, P. Bibliog. delle pubblicazioni in morte di Vittorio Emanuele II. Firenze, tip. dei succ. Le Monnier, 1879. 8+214 p. 16°. 3.50 l. (200 copies.)

HERBERT, H: Repertorium üb. einen Theil d. Siebenbürgen betref. Literatur. Hermannstadt, 1878. 120 p. 8°. 3 m.

KUERSCHNER, Jos. Die Literatur des Theaters. (Pages 222-90 of his Jahrbuch f. d. deutsche Theater während des letzten Theaterjahres, Lpz., Foltz, 1879, 8°.)

LIPPE, C. D. Bibliographisches Lexicon der gesammten jüdischen Literatur der Gegenwart und Adress-Anzeiger. Nebst bibliog. genauer Angabe sämmtl. von jüd. Autoren der Gegenwart. Vol. IV., No. 4.

wart publicirten, speciell die jüdische Literatur betreffenden Schriftwerke und Zeitschriften, in chronol. Anordnung und Reihenfolge. 1. Lfg. Wien, Löwy, 1879. 16+72 p. 8°. 1.60 m.

To consist of about 7 pts.

MÉLANGES historiques, littéraires, bibliographiques. Nantes, 1878. 8°. 13 m.

MERRIMAN, Mansfield. Literature of the method of least squares, and the law of errors of observation. (Pages 190-193 of Elements of the method of least squares. London, Macmillan & Co., 1877. 8°. 8+200 p.)

47 titles, selected from a list of about 400, which the author hopes to publish with notes, historical and critical.—F. W. F.

NATURAE Novitates; Bibliographie neuer Erscheingn. aller Länder auf dem Gebiete d. Naturgeschichte u. d. exacten Wissenschaften. 1 Jahrg. 1879. Berlin, Friedländer & Sohn, 1879. 24 p. 8°.

To appear fortnightly. 4 m. a year.

VASENIUS, Valfrid. Suomalainen Kirjallisuus 1544-1877; la littérature finnoise 1544-1877; catalogue alphab. et systém. Helsingfors, Suomal. Kirjall. Seur. kirjap. 1878. 14+264 p. 8°. 3.50 m.

"The Finnish Literary Society in Helsingfors, which published 20 years ago as the 20th v. of their collections, Pipping's excellent work on Finnish literature, has now issued as its 57th v. a continuation, with additions where possible to the earlier literature. The compiler has of course used the University Library of Helsingfors, which receives by law a copy of every work printed in Finland."—*Petzholdt*, in *N. Anzeiger*.

"Will prove exceedingly useful to the few English people who happen to be students of Suomi. The work of Dr. Vasenius differs entirely from that of such previous chroniclers of Finnish literature as Elmgren and Lagus in that he confines himself to the native language, while they embraced and mainly dealt with the products of the Swedish language in Finland. Hence it is curious to find some of the most famous Finnish writers, such as Frese, Creutz, and Porthan, not even mentioned here, while even Runeberg and Topelius are only included because some of their writings have been translated into Suomi. We find that the savage Finn can, if he wish, read of Shakapere's works, 'King Lear' and 'Macbeth,' and four of Sir Walter Scott's romances, not to mention the 'Pilgrim's Progress' and 'Uncle Tom's Cabin.' He may also regale himself on the wondrous tale of 'Alroy.' A good deal of the fugitive English theology of the day helps to swell the list."—*Acad.*, Feb. 22.

ZEZI, P. Indice bibliog. delle pub. riguard. la mineralogia, la geol., e la paleontol. della prov. di Roma; con un' append. per le acque potabili, termali, e minerali. Roma, 1879. 20 p. 4°.

Bibliografia geol. e paleontol. della prov. di Siena; per D. Pantanelli.—*Bol. del R. Comitato Geol. d'Italia*, no. 7, 8, July, Aug., p. 300-27.

*Catalogue des anagrammes, devises, et pseudonymes des poètes du 18e siècle*; par Prosper Blanchemain.—*Miscel. bibliog.*, no. 11.

*Le légende flamande de saint Brandan et sa bibliographie*; par L. de Backer.—*Miscel. bibliog.*, no. 12.

*Die Litteratur d. sogenannten Lehnin'schen Weissagung, in chronol. Folge zusammengestellt von E. W. Sabell*.—*Neuer Ans.*, Jan., Feb. 8¾ + 13¾ p.

*Les livres imprimés en couleur au 18e siècle*; par Léon de Labassade.—*Miscel. bibliog.*, no. 12.

*Les mss. du 18e siècle*; par Loys Francia (suite et fin).—*Miscel. bibliog.*, no. 7, 8.

*Neueste Beiträge zur Faustlitteratur*.—*N. Anzeiger*, mar. 4½ p.

*Pie IX; bibliog. des ouvrages consacrés à sa mémoire*.—*Polybiblion*, Feb. 2 p.

*Principaux mss. et imprimés de l'Exposition du Trocadéro*; par le baron de Ruble.—*Bul. du bibliophile*, sept.-nov.

*The twenty-five library*.—*Librarian*, mar. 15. 3 p.

"A list of 25 books whose owner will be a thoroughly well informed person by mastering even half their contents," by F. B. Perkins, taken from the *Saturday mag.*, and accompanied by notes suggesting other works, by S. N. L.

"M. Emil Hartge publishes a weekly *Russian bibliography*, in Russian, on the plan of the *Bibliographie de la France*."—*Polybiblion*.

#### D. Indexes.

SCHLESISCHE GESELLSCHAFT F. VATERLÄNDISCHE CULTUR. Schriften; General-Sachregister, 1804-1876, geordnet in alphabet. Folge. Breslau, Aderholz, 1878. 12 + 162 p. 8". 3 m.

HILDEBRANDT's technological index, noticed elsewhere, is to be published monthly at 55 Cross St., Manchester, Eng. It is intended to contain all the material requisite for easy reference to all articles of scientific or technical interest in the journals covered. It will consist of alphabetical lists of titles, contents, and authors (if known) of the articles, and will have a statement (not exceeding a line or two) of their salient points.

THE editor requests all librarians engaged in indexing or in the preparation of catalogs for proximate publication to let him know of their work; and Mr. H. B. Wheatley, secretary of the Index Society, makes a similar request in regard to indexes.

THE INDEX to Dingler's *Journal* is nearly done and I shall try to have it printed this year if our appropriations will allow. The complete index (in English) of French patents is now done and the printing is only delayed by the fact that seven years of the French brevets, from about 1863 to 1870, have not yet been printed. I hardly think we shall wait for them, however. I wish we could learn through the LIBRARY JOURNAL just what each librarian is doing in the matter of indexing. I have seen many notices, but cannot a complete list be given?

WESTON FLINT,  
Librarian of the U. S. Patent Office.

## PSEUDONYMS AND ANONYMS.

EDITED BY JAMES L. WHITNEY.

This department of the JOURNAL will contain the latest discoveries in regard to the authors of anonymous and pseudonymous books. Contributions are invited from all interested in making this list as complete and valuable as possible.

#### PSEUDONYMS.

A. B.\*\*—"Songs in the Desert," by A. B.\*\* may be had from Mr. Ously, 30 Clarendon St.; Mr. Platt, 94 Oldham St., and Joseph Gillett, Printer, 2 Brown St., Manchester. 1845. The authoress was Ann Beaty. W: E: A. A.

Michel Carlin.—"Baldness: its cause and cure" (Manchester, 1875). The author is Mr. J. H. Bonnye, of Preston. W: E: A. A.

John, of Manchester.—"The sailor, the sinner, and the saint: the eventful life of George Viney, late of Manchester" (London, Houlston, 1853. 8"). The editor of this curious work, who calls himself "John, of Manchester," was John Bosworth. He rewrote it from the papers of George Viney, who was for a time in the American navy. The book gives a very vivid picture of a common seaman's career. W: E: A. A.

A Lunar Wray.—"At the back of the moon" (B., 1879). Attributed to the Rev. M. J. Savage, of Boston.

Arthur Morecamp.—"Live boys; or, Charley and Nasho in Texas" (B., 1879). The author is Thomas Pilgrim.

Pendragon.—"Modern boxing" (London, 1878). The author is Henry Sampson.

Trebor.—"As it may happen" (Phil., 1879). The author is Robert S. Davis. A. Y.

Werdna Retnyn, M. D.—"Pictures of town and country life" (London, Routledge, 1855). By Andrew Wynter, M. D., author of several similar collections of essays. W: E: A. A.

#### ANONYMOUS WORKS.

Pietas et gratulatio.—On the accession of King George the Third to the throne, His Majesty's most loyal subjects, the President and Fellows of Harvard College, issued a "Proposal for a celebration of the Death of the late King, and the accession of his present Majesty, by members of Harvard College." Prizes were offered for the best orations and poems in Latin and English, and, by vote of the Corporation, this collection was printed, with the following title: "Pietas et gratulatio Collegii Cantabrigiensis apud Novanglos."

This volume consists of a dedication in prose to the king, and thirty-one poems in English,



Latin, and Greek. The authors' names are not given, and they are known only as they are found written in copies which belonged to persons living at that time.

In the March number of the Harvard College Bulletin, Mr. Winsor has given the results of a comparison of the copies which are accessible. There is a difference of opinion in regard to the authors of some of the poems, and it is not known whether the dedication to the king was written by Sir Francis Bernard, the royal governor of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, to whose suggestion this action of the College is due, or by Lieutenant-Governor Hutchinson. Among the authors mentioned are President Edward Holyoke, Master John Lovell of the Boston Latin School, Stephen Sewall, Dr. Benjamin Church, John Lowell, Governor James Bowdoin, the Reverend Samuel Cooper, and Professor John Winthrop. Several of the poems are attributed to Sir Francis Bernard.

It is not known that the king made any answer, or that he was more affected by this outburst of loyalty than King Charles had been by similar professions of devotion by his American subjects, during the earlier days of the colony.

Two copies of this rare work in the Brinley library were recently sold at auction.

*The education of girls.* Reprinted from the *Dublin University* magazine. (Manchester, J; Heywood [1873]. 8°. pp. 18.) The writer is Mr. Frederick J. Faraday. W: E: A. A.

*Grundideen der Politik der österreichischen Monarchie* (Frankfurt a/M., 1815). Carl Ludwig v. Woltmann.—*Neuer Anzeiger*.

*Heaven our home* (L., 1862). Rev. William Branks.

*Kindling-wood Jimmy* (Phil., 1878). Rev. E. A. Rand.

*Odds and ends from an old drawer* (London, Routledge, 1855). The author was Andrew Wynter, M. D. The book claims a place in Nicotian bibliography on account of the "Ode to my pipe," at p. 9. W: E: A. A.

*Tales of the martyrs; or, sketches from Church history*, 2d ed. (London, 1844, 12mo). The writer was Annie Field Elsdale, niece of the Rev. Robinson Elsdale, D. D., formerly second master of Manchester grammar school. W: E: A. A.

*Traditions of the Foreland of the Fylde. Elizabethan Era. Penny Stone; or, a tradition of the Spanish Armada, by the author of the History of Blackpool* (Fleetwood, 1845, 12°). The author was the Rev. Wm. Thornber. The book is now scarce. W: E: A. A.

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

EDITED BY MELVIL DEWEY.

*To save space, the question which almost invariably gives rise to the note is omitted. Readers are requested to send in answers or corrections of unsatisfactory answers given to any queries. Suggestions based on actual experience will be specially welcome. Note the worthlessness as carefully as the valuable, and thus avoid waste of time and money in trying what will be surely and speedily abandoned.*

DECEASED BORROWERS.—It is always a matter of difficulty to collect books when the borrower has died, and, as applications to executors frequently fail, and are besides a roundabout way of setting to work, it is hoped that the resources of spiritualistic science may be utilized for library purposes. The following letter is said to have been gravely addressed to the shades of a departed fellow by the custodian of a library in an English university town: the system may be recommended for its perfect novelty and thorough directness. The authorities of the Dead-Letter Office have been requested to take charge of the communication, but we do not know whether Mr. X. has returned the books or answered the summons:

BADEL INSTITUTION, WEISSNICH TWO, }  
March, 1879. }

To the late Mr. X.

Sir.

I shall be obliged by your returning the books belonging to this institution, which were in your possession at the time of your lamented decease.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

DIÖGENES TEUFELSDRÖCKH.

FALSE REGISTRATION.—How shall I prevent those living outside the town limits registering and taking advantage of the privileges of our library?

This library has a card which begins: "I hereby certify that I am a resident of the town," etc. Still, those outside the town sign it. The Coöperation Committee considered the question, and thought it too much trouble to ask the librarian to look up and verify the residence of each applicant. In large towns the police can do this, but not in small places. The best plan seemed to be to request all applicants not personally known by the librarian to be entitled to the privileges, to bring a written statement of actual residence and rights from some minister, priest, or other responsible person well known to the library.

PUBLISHING SOCIETIES.—The following letter (from G. Laurence Gomme, *Athenæum*, 1 F '79) suggests a plan which would be good if any guar-

antee could be given that new "publishing societies" would not be started, depending entirely on this forced sale to libraries for their support. The number of public libraries is now so great that the sale of a book to each would be insurance of success to the worst publishing enterprise. The grain of good in this letter wants sifting out carefully:

"Will you permit me to ask, through your columns, the attention of the Library Association to what, perhaps, may be thought a not unimportant subject for their consideration, and, I hope, action? It has often been suggested to me, by correspondents wishing to join the Folk-Lore Society, that many earnest students are not able to subscribe to more than one or two of the many publishing societies that now exist: very few can afford to subscribe to all. This difficulty might, perhaps, be met if it were made compulsory for every *public library* to subscribe for every publication issued by publishing societies; and, in order to lessen this burden, if it be considered such, the societies might be compelled to sell their publications to public libraries at a somewhat reduced price; at all events, a fair arrangement might be hit upon by the Library Association, after the examination of a few statistics upon the subject, and the Legislature be thus induced to take the necessary steps."

#### GENERAL NOTES.

##### UNITED STATES.

**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.**—The library question has been brought up in the extra session of Congress. Senator Voorhees, March 31, moved that the bill to provide for additional accommodations for the Library of Congress be referred back to the Committee on the Library. Senator Morrill opposed the proposition for an additional wing to the Capitol for that purpose. It would be better, he said, to erect a separate building east of the Capitol, which would be economical and convenient. The bill was then referred back to the Committee on the Library.

**N. Y. MERCANTILE LIB.**—The down-town office will be transferred to Nos. 59-61 Liberty Street, on May 1, a spacious, well-lighted office, which will be furnished tastefully as a library and reading-room. Being on the first floor, this office will be easy of access to members, many of whom travel down-town on the elevated railroads, and find it more convenient to go to the branch library for books than to break the journey by calling at the main office in Clinton Hall. It is intended to connect the down-town office with the main library by telephone.

**SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY.**—The last legislature, early in 1878, passed a Library Law, under which San Francisco is to have a Public Library. While most wait for some large personal gift or legacies, this city has commenced itself, setting apart \$24,000 with which to start this year. The act names the Trustees for San Francisco, and they have the power to fill vacancies. The law will allow of \$250,000 being raised annually, so legal provision is made for a library worthy of the wealth of the Pacific slope. The Trustees have leased Central Hall (135 by 50 feet), finely located in the center of the city. Albert Hart, for some years Librarian of the state, and also of the Law Library, which position he left for the better one of U. S. Pension Agent, has been brought back into the library field as the new librarian.

**DOG TAX FOR LIBRARIES.**—In Massachusetts the dog tax has heretofore been set apart principally for the support of the public libraries. Now it is proposed to divert 10 per cent. of it to the State Agricultural College. C. F. Adams, jr., has addressed a remonstrance to the Legislature in behalf of the Quincy Library. He fails to see why these funds should be diverted to the use of "an institution in which neither the inhabitants nor the dogs of Quincy have any perceptible interest, except of the most remote and general character." "All the new books," says the *N. Y. Tribune*, "of the Quincy Library are paid for by the dogs, or by the dogs' owners, at least, and the proposed change would have a bad effect upon the literary acquisitions of the old town. In what way dogs could be made to do more good it is not easy to see; and the sympathies of all lovers of books will be with Mr. Adams."

Other protests from other parts of the state are not wanting. There is a widespread feeling that the Amherst Agricultural College is of very little value indeed to the state, and that its work can be done quite as well, at a much less cost, if it were merged in Amherst College proper which is in the same village. Add to this feeling that it does not pay to keep pouring money into this College, the feeling that the libraries should receive more instead of less, and there ought to be no doubt of the rejection of the measure by the legislature.

Many people who keep dogs, pay the taxes willingly because they consider the money a gift towards the support of their own local library. If this dog tax goes for a purpose not commanding wide sympathy, there will be vigorous opposition.

**IOWA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE.**—"A year ago the college overseers appointed Mr. J. C.

Arthur to take charge of its library, which, up to that time, had been in the state of confusion usual in college libraries, the books being unclassified and the periodicals scattered and many lost. Mr. Arthur at once adopted the Amherst system of classification, and during the year made the following changes: duplicates not needed in the regular library were placed by themselves and listed for sale or exchange; the books on the shelves were numbered and arranged according to the 'Dewey system'; an author catalogue or index on cards of the standard size was completed; a shelf-list, which was at the same time a subject-catalogue, was made and temporarily bound in book form; the accessions catalogue was made and filled out to date; the Dewey slip system of registering loans was successfully inaugurated; the ms. for a printed dictionary-catalogue begun and progress made; a record of receipts of all periodicals, pamphlets, handbills, and ephemeral literature was made; daily bulletins were posted, showing arrivals of books and journals; and occasional bulletins to call attention to the more important articles in the late periodicals.

"In addition to the foregoing, the whole mass of unassorted magazines, journals, etc., was gone over, assorted and arranged for binding. Among the minor items, are the files and tables for daily and weekly newspapers, and the dictionary stands,—the latter a most valuable addition, making the dictionaries accessible to all in the room with the least possible trouble.

"During the year several modifications of the rules have been made, which increase the ease of consulting the books,—an important matter in a library from which students are not allowed to draw books.

"The library owes much to Mr. Arthur for so successfully inaugurating the new system, and it is to be regretted that the overseers did not renew his engagement. It is hoped that the work so well begun will be carried out." \*\*\*

MR. ALBERT B. YOHNS, of the Indianapolis Public Library, has offered his resignation because of ill-health, with the view of devoting himself exclusively to his book business. The trustees have so far declined to accept the resignation, and a leave of absence is suggested instead, during which Mr. Yohn might serve the library by visiting similar institutions in the East, and comparing notes.

THERE has been much confusion, both in the LIBRARY JOURNAL and elsewhere, as to the position to which Dr. S. Austin Allibone has been appointed at the Lenox Library. We are now authoritatively informed that Dr. Allibone is the

*Librarian*, elected by the Trustees at a salary of \$5000, having entire and supreme control of the books, while Mr. Geo. H. Moore remains Superintendent, with reference especially to the other treasures of the building.

MR. EM. TERQUEM, during his recent trip to this country, was charged by the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, with conveying to the governmental departments, American libraries, etc., its desire to preserve full files of American reports, etc. With the coöperation of Prof. Spencer F. Baird, Gen. John Eaton, and other gentlemen, Mr. Terquem has been so successful that twenty-five cases of donations, including ten of government publications, have been forwarded to Paris. Mr. Terquem desires, in behalf of the Bibliothèque Nationale, to thank those who have honored its desires in this matter, and to express his own willingness to reciprocate the courtesy by any similar service to the American libraries contributing, on his return to Paris.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

MANCHESTER MEETING OF L. A. U. K.—Preparations have already commenced and the local committee are considering the reception of visitors, a fund to meet local expenses, and the appointment of an executive.

BRITISH MUSEUM.—Mr. E. J. L. Scott has been appointed assistant-keeper of the mss. The reading-room will, from April 1st till the end of July, be open until six o'clock, instead of five o'clock, as before. The galleries will be open on Monday and Saturday evenings until eight o'clock from May 8th till the middle of July, and until seven o'clock from the middle of July till the end of August.

DEATH OF SIR ANTHONY PANIZZI.—Sir Anthony Panizzi, K. C. B., formerly principal librarian of the British Museum, whose death has been announced, was born at Brescello, Duchy of Modena, Sept. 16, 1797. Graduating at the University of Parma in 1818, he undertook the practice of law, but taking part in the Piedmontese revolution of 1821, he was obliged to flee. He was condemned to death in default and his property was confiscated. He found his way to England, and through the influence of the historian Roscoe became a teacher in Liverpool. In 1828 he became Professor of Italian in University College, London, which position he left in 1831 to take the office of assistant librarian in the British Museum. Six years later he was appointed Keeper of the Printed Books, and in this position developed rapidly and solidly the value of the library. He

resigned his office in June, 1866, the Government awarding him the full salary as a pension, with the honor of K. C. B. He was the editor of several editions of standard Italian poetical works.

OXFORD.—The Bodleian has forestalled the British Museum in taking steps for the compilation of a much needed classified catalogue. On Mar. 11 the following Decree was carried in Convocation by 50 votes to 16: "That the Curators of the University Chest be authorized to pay to the Curators of the Bodleian Library £270 per annum for three years, for the purpose of a classified catalogue of the library." The catalogue will be put in hand at once, and as the slips are all ready it is hoped that no great time will elapse before the Bodleian possesses a subject-index worthy of the great collection contained in it. In the same Convocation it was agreed (*nem. con.*) "to pay to the curators of the Bodleian Library £230 per annum for three years, for the purpose of increasing the purchase of books, with a view of supplying the existing deficiencies of the Library."

ENGLISH DIALECT LIBRARY.—The arrangements have now been completed with the Free Libraries Committee of the Corporation of Manchester for the establishment of the English Dialect Library, and the whole of the books belonging to the E. D. S. have been placed on the shelves of the Central Public Library in the old Town Hall of Manchester. To these the dictionaries and dialect books already in the possession of the Manchester Corporation have been added. A catalogue is in preparation. During the continuance of the Society its members may obtain the loan of any work on application to the Honorary Secretary. The contents will be accessible to the general public for reference.

RICHMOND (*Surrey*).—So many of the metropolitan parishes have distinctly refused to adopt the Public Libraries' Acts that any move in the right direction on the part of suburban districts will be hailed with satisfaction. A meeting convened by the Rate-payers' Association, 5 Mar., passed resolutions (1140 to 618) in favor of adopting the Acts in the parish of Richmond; expressing an opinion that the rate should not be less than the one penny in the pound fixed by the Acts as a maximum; and recommending that steps should be taken for increasing the "supplementary foundation fund," for augmenting the revenue resulting from the library rate.

At the next meeting of the Vestry, which had uncompromisingly opposed adoption, the will of the rate-payers was defied by the appointment of a Library Committee of nine from its own mem-

bers, made up of leading opponents of the Act. Great local indignation is the result, and an effort is making to replace the obnoxious members of the Vestry with better men, in which the *Richmond and Twickenham Times* is taking a leading part.

SIGNET LIBRARY, EDINBURGH.—On p. 28, we noted that Mr. T. G. Law, late librarian of the Brompton Oratory, was a candidate for the post vacated by the death of Mr. David Laing. Mr. Law has been chosen by the committee of selection and will doubtless be formally elected to the very honorable office of librarian to the Society of Writers to Her Majesty's Signet. The candidates were numerous, but the list was sifted down to two names, that of Mr. Law being one, while the other was Mr. J. A. Hjalalin, assistant librarian of the Advocates' Library.

RONALDS CATALOG.—The librarian's edition, noted in Mr. Frost's article (3: 284<sup>21</sup>) received so many subscribers that 200 copies were ordered printed. The members of the Society of Telegraph Engineers mostly preferred the ordinary edition. Outside subscribers were about equally divided. There has been some delay in publishing, but the catalog is now being pushed forward, and is expected soon.

DARLSTON.—The Darlston Local Board, on the 4th of March, decided to build a free library, reference library, reading-room, board-room, and public offices, at a cost not to exceed £4500; also to apply to the Local Government Board for their approval.

MR. HENRY B. WHEATLEY, of the Royal Society, and Secretary of the Index Society, has been appointed assistant secretary of the Society of Arts and editor of the *Journal*, and will leave the Royal Society to accept.

WE regret to record the death of Dr. Crestadoro, chief librarian of the Manchester Free Library, at the age of 71 years. He succeeded in the librarianship Mr. R. Smiles (brother of the author of the "Self-Help" series of books) about fifteen years ago, after compiling a valuable catalogue of the reference department of the Library. We hope to give a further note in our next issue.

ERRATA.—V. 3, p. 238. The "old free library building" alluded to is that of Manchester. It did not wholly fall to the ground, but a part of the staircase did, and a laborer was killed.

V. 3, p. 312. The Lancashire Independent College is at Whalley Range, Manchester; *not* at Whalley.  
C: W: S.

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